



# Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



TUESDAY — 10 MAY 2022

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## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	05/10 China slams US over Taiwan wording
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/china-us-taiwan-website/2022/05/10/id/1069195/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/china-us-taiwan-website/2022/05/10/id/1069195/</a>
GIST	<p>China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday slammed the United States for changing the wording on the State Department website about Taiwan, saying "political manipulation" will not succeed in changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.</p> <p>The State Department website's section on Taiwan has removed wording both on not supporting Taiwan independence and on acknowledging Beijing's position that Taiwan is part of China.</p>

China's government considers the democratically-ruled island to be inviolable Chinese territory.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing that there is only one China, Taiwan belongs to China, and that the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole country.

The United States' changing of its fact sheet on Taiwan-U.S ties is "a petty act of fictionalizing and hollowing out the one-China principle," he added.

"This kind of political manipulation on the Taiwan question is an attempt to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, and will inevitably stir up a fire that only burns" the United States, Zhao said.

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside of business hours in Washington.

The wording change appears to have happened on May 5, the date at the top of the fact sheet, but it was only widely noticed in Chinese and Taiwanese media on Tuesday.

The State Department also added wording on the Six Assurances, referring to six Reagan-era security assurances given to Taiwan, which the United States declassified in 2020.

Among the assurances made in 1982, but previously not formally made public, are statements that the United States has not set a date for ending arms sales to Taiwan, nor agreed to prior consultation with Beijing on such sales, or to revise the Taiwan Relations Act that underpins U.S. policy towards the island.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said in response that the government will continue to strengthen its self-defense capabilities, and cooperate with the United States and other like-minded countries to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Taiwan Strait and Indo-Pacific region.

China says Taiwan is the most sensitive and important issue in its relations with the United States.

Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's 23 million people can decide their future.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Some Russia troops refuse to obey orders</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/ukraine-russia-putin-war/2022/05/09/id/1069131/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/ukraine-russia-putin-war/2022/05/09/id/1069131/</a>
GIST	<p>Russian forces have failed to make significant progress in Russia's new military offensive in eastern Ukraine, partly due to "poor morale" and some troops "refusing to obey orders," a senior Pentagon official said Monday.</p> <p>"We still see anecdotal reports of poor morale of troops, indeed officers, refusing to obey orders and move and not really sound command and control from a leadership perspective," the senior U.S. official told reporters.</p> <p>The official also said that "midgrade officers at various levels, even up to the battalion level" have either refused to obey orders, "or are not obeying them with the same measure of alacrity that you would expect an officer to obey."</p> <p>It's been a taxing month for the Russian forces, on various fronts.</p> <p>Last week, U.S. intelligence officials denied numerous reports they were helping the Ukrainian forces target — and sometimes kill — senior Russian generals.</p>

	<p>Through another reported intelligence-sharing cooperative, U.S. information may have helped Ukraine take out a Russian missile cruiser (Moskva) — an incident that was characterized as a "high-profile failure" for Russia's military.</p> <p>And for Russia's "Victory Day" celebration in Moscow on Monday — commemorating the Soviet Union's World War II defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 — there were few signs of an imminent victory over Ukraine.</p> <p>The above occurrences might have been the impetus behind low-morale issues, or even reports of Russian soldiers "sabotaging" their own equipment.</p> <p>The Russia-Ukraine war has been ongoing since Feb. 24; and according to the U.S. official, the Kremlin has had logistical difficulties with fortifying troops and moving weapons and equipment in muddy spring weather.</p> <p>"It's not unusual for them to move a (Batallion Tactical Group) or two out of the Donbas back into Russia for refit or resupply and then move them back in. That's normal," the Pentagon official said.</p> <p>According to reports, Russia has 97 separate BTG units currently operating in Ukraine. Each BTG typically consists of about 700-800 soldiers.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 Marcos presidency complicates US policies</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/business-china-elections-presidential-philippines-07966d48907ea11a910d8aecbcb8db7b">https://apnews.com/article/business-china-elections-presidential-philippines-07966d48907ea11a910d8aecbcb8db7b</a>
GIST	<p>MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s <a href="#">apparent landslide victory</a> in the Philippine presidential election is giving rise to immediate concerns about a further erosion of democracy in the region, and could complicate American efforts to blunt growing Chinese influence and power in the Pacific.</p> <p>Marcos, the son and namesake of longtime dictator Ferdinand Marcos, captured more than 30.8 million votes in Monday's election according to an unofficial count, more than double those of his closest challenger.</p> <p>If the results stand, <a href="#">he will take office at the end of June for a six-year term with Sara Duterte</a>, the daughter of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, as his vice president.</p> <p>Duterte — who leaves office with a 67% approval rating — nurtured closer ties with China and Russia, while at times railing against the United States.</p> <p>He has walked back on many of his threats against Washington, however, including a move to abrogate a defense pact between the two countries, and the luster of China's promise of infrastructure investment has dulled, with much failing to materialize.</p> <p>Whether the recent trend in relations with the U.S. will continue has a lot to do with how President Joe Biden's administration responds to the return of a Marcos to power in the Philippines, said Manila-based political scientist Andrea Chloe Wong, a former researcher in the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>"On the one hand you have Biden regarding the geostrategic interests in the Philippines, and on the other hand he has to balance promoting American democratic ideals and human rights," she said.</p> <p>"If he chooses to do that, he might have to isolate the Marcos administration, so this will definitely be a delicate balancing act for the Philippines, and Marcos' approach to the U.S. will highly depend on how Biden will engage with him."</p>

His election comes at a time when the U.S. has been increasingly focused on the region, embarking on a strategy unveiled in February to considerably broaden U.S. engagement by strengthening a web of security alliances and partnerships, with an emphasis on addressing China's growing influence and ambitions.

Thousands of American and Filipino forces recently wrapped up one of their largest combat exercises in years, which showcased U.S. firepower in the northern Philippines near its sea border with Taiwan.

Marcos has been short on specifics about foreign policy, but in interviews he said he wanted to pursue closer ties with China, including possibly setting aside a 2016 ruling by a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated almost all of China's historical claims to the South China Sea.

China has refused to recognize the ruling, and Marcos said it won't help settle disputes with Beijing, "so that option is not available to us."

Allowing the U.S. to play a role in trying to settle territorial spats with China will be a "recipe for disaster," Marcos said in an interview with DZRH radio in January. He said Duterte's policy of diplomatic engagement with China is "really our only option."

Marcos has also said he would maintain his nation's alliance with the U.S., but the relationship is complicated by American backing of the administrations that took power after his father was deposed, and a 2011 U.S. District Court ruling in Hawaii finding him and his mother in contempt of an order to furnish information on assets in connection with a 1995 human rights class action suit against Marcos Sr.

The court fined them \$353.6 million, which has never been paid and could complicate the possibility of him visiting the U.S. in the future.

The U.S. has a long history with the Philippines, which was an American colony for most of the first half of the last century before it was granted independence in 1946.

The U.S. closed its last military bases on the Philippines in 1992, but the country's location on the South China Sea means it remains strategically important, and under a 1951 collective defense treaty the U.S. guarantees its support if the Philippines is attacked.

Even though the Biden administration may have preferred to work with Marcos' leading opponent, Leni Robredo, the "U.S.-Philippines alliance is vital to both nations' security and prosperity, especially in the new era of competition with China," said Gregory B. Poling, director of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"Unlike Leni, with her coherent platform for good governance and development at home and standing up to China abroad, Marcos is a policy cipher," Poling said in a research note. "He has avoided presidential debates, shunned interviews, and has been silent on most issues."

Marcos has been clear, however, that he would like to try again to improve ties with Beijing, Poling said.

"But when it comes to foreign policy, Marcos will not have the same space for maneuver that Duterte did," he said. "The Philippines tried an outstretched hand and China bit it. That is why the Duterte government has re-embraced the U.S. alliance and gotten tougher on Beijing over the last two years."

Marcos Sr. was ousted in 1986 after millions of people took to the streets, forcing an end to his corrupt dictatorship and a return to democracy. But the election of Duterte as president in 2016 brought a return to a strongman-type leader, which voters have now doubled-down on with Marcos Jr.

Domestically, Marcos, who goes by his childhood nickname "Bongbong," is widely expected to pick up where Duterte left off, stifling a free press and cracking down on dissent with less of the outgoing leader's

crude and brash style, while putting an end to ongoing attempts to recover some of the billions of dollars his father pilfered from the state coffers.

But a return to the hard-line rule of his father, who declared martial law for much of his rule, is not likely, said Julio Teehankee, a political science professor at Manila's De La Salle University.

"He does not have the courage or the brilliance, or even the ruthlessness to become a dictator, so I think what we will see is a form of authoritarian-lite or Marcos-lite," Teehankee said.

The new Marcos government will not mean the end of Philippine democracy, Poling said, "though it may accelerate its decay."

"The country's democratic institutions have already been battered by six years of the Duterte presidency and the rise of online disinformation, alongside the decades-long corrosives of oligarchy, graft, and poor governance," he said.

"The United States would be better served by engagement rather than criticism of the democratic headwinds buffeting the Philippines."

Marcos' approach at home could have a spillover effect in other countries in the region, where democratic freedoms are being increasingly eroded in many places and the Philippines had been seen as a positive influence, Wong said.

"This will have an impact on Philippine foreign policy when it comes to promoting its democratic values, freedoms and human rights, particularly in Southeast Asia," she said. "The Philippines is regarded as a bastion of democracy in the region, with a strong civil society and a noisy media, and with Bongbong Marcos as president, we will have less credibility."

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HEADLINE	05/09 Tech giants lost \$1T last 3 trading days
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/09/tech-giants-lost-over-1-trillion-in-value-in-last-three-trading-days.html">https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/09/tech-giants-lost-over-1-trillion-in-value-in-last-three-trading-days.html</a>
GIST	<p>The world's largest technology companies have shed over \$1 trillion in value in just three trading sessions.</p> <p>Stocks at large have sold off since the <a href="#">Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate</a> on Wednesday, but technology has endured more pain than other sectors of the economy.</p> <p>Investors now have less interest in what drove business during a strong bull market in recent years, including during the pandemic, and are now pushing more money toward safer pockets of the market, including staples like <a href="#">Campbell Soup</a>, <a href="#">General Mills</a> and <a href="#">J.M. Smucker</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Apple</a>, the world's most valuable public company, has shed \$220 billion in value since the close of trading on Wednesday, the day Fed Chair Jerome Powell declared that inflation was running too high and that there were no plans for a rate hike more than half of a percentage point.</p> <p>Markets first moved up on Powell's comments, but the optimism sputtered out in the following days. Stocks went lower on Thursday, fell again on Friday and then still lower on Monday. The S&amp;P 500 U.S. stock index fell below the 4,000 mark on Monday, having declined by 7% since Wednesday's close, while the Invesco Nasdaq 100 ETF is off by nearly 10% during the same period.</p> <p>Here are the other big losses over the last three trading days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Microsoft</a> has lost around \$189 billion in value.</li><li>• <a href="#">Tesla's</a> markdown registers at \$199 billion, months after seeing its valuation fall below \$1 trillion.</li><li>• <a href="#">Amazon's</a> market capitalization has declined by \$173 billion.</li><li>• <a href="#">Alphabet</a>, Google's umbrella company, is worth \$123 billion less than it was last week.</li><li>• Graphics card maker <a href="#">Nvidia's</a> loss stands at \$85 billion.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>And Facebook parent <a href="#">Meta Platforms</a> has lost \$70 billion in value.</li> </ul>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Sound Transit as a homeless shelter</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/homeless-seattle-sound-transit-shelter-video">https://www.foxnews.com/us/homeless-seattle-sound-transit-shelter-video</a>
GIST	<p>A video filmed in <a href="#">Seattle shows dozens</a> of reported homeless people using the city's public light rail system as a shelter to sleep.</p> <p>"A Sound Transit employee took a shocking video that shows approximately 30 homeless people using light rail as a homeless shelter. Why is this happening?" KTTX radio host Jason Rantz tweeted Monday.</p> <p>The video pans across multiple Sound Transit cars, showing dozens of people slumped over and sleeping. <a href="#">Rantz reported</a> that the video was filmed on May 2 at the Angle Lake Station.</p> <p>A few of the people are seen sleeping across multiple seats, while a handful of others are awake and leaning next to their belongings. A Sound Transit employee told Rantz similar situations unfold routinely.</p> <p>A Sound Transit spokesperson said the "severity of the problem displayed in the video is particularly concerning" but called video of the scene "new information for us," according to Rantz.</p> <p>"We are also aware that operators are frustrated with these ongoing problems," a spokesperson for Sound Transit told Fox News Digital later Monday.</p> <p>"While most riders during the day are having a safe and reliable experience, problems are acute at times of lower ridership and when support staffing is lower, such as early in the morning and later in the evening," the spokesperson added in their comment to Rantz.</p> <p>Security vendors for Sound Transit are tasked with walking through the cars at the end of the line and to ask riders to exit.</p> <p>"The security vendor failed to perform this duty in this case," the spokesperson said of the video.</p> <p>"We have several efforts underway to try and address the challenges that the agency is experiencing on Link. They focus on centering compassion while ensuring the transit environment is physically and psychologically safe for both riders and operators," the spokesperson added.</p> <p>Sound Transit's board of directors voted last month to overhaul its fare enforcement protocols in a bid to address concerns over equity. The new policies include: increasing the number of warnings issued to riders who don't pay so the issue is less likely to wind up in civil court; not suspending people from the system over nonpayment, the Seattle Times reported.</p> <p>In other cities such as New York, <a href="#">homelessness within the subway</a> system contributed to a fall in ridership early this year, as New Yorkers voiced concerns over their safety. Mayor Eric Adams launched a plan in February to remove the homeless who sheltered in subways.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Pensions' bad year poised to get worse</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/pensions-bad-year-poised-to-get-worse-11652175002?mod=hp_lead_pos2">https://www.wsj.com/articles/pensions-bad-year-poised-to-get-worse-11652175002?mod=hp_lead_pos2</a>
GIST	<p>State and local government retirement funds started the year with their worst quarterly returns since the beginning of the pandemic. Things have only gone downhill since.</p> <p>Losses across both <a href="#">stock</a> and <a href="#">bond markets</a> delivered a double blow to the funds that manage more than \$4.5 trillion in retirement savings for America's teachers, firefighters and other public workers. These retirement plans returned a median minus 4.01% in the first quarter, according to data from the Wilshire</p>



Trust Universe Comparison Service expected to be released Tuesday. Recent losses have further [eroded their holdings](#).

“It’s a tough period,” said Jay Bowen, manager of the Tampa Firefighters and Police Officers Pension Fund. “Nobody is immune.”

The [simultaneous declines in stocks and bonds](#) are inflicting pain on household and institutional investors alike in 2022. The S&P 500 has returned minus 13.5% year to date through Friday, while the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate bond index—largely U.S. Treasuries, highly rated corporate bonds and mortgage-backed securities—returned minus 10.5%.

Pension funds maintain huge portfolios of stocks, bonds and other assets, wielding significant power on Wall Street, where their purchases and sales can shift prices and investment managers vie for their business. Their losses can raise costs for governments and workers, squeeze municipal budgets and drive up taxes.

At the Tampa fund, one of the nation’s best performing, Mr. Bowen is sitting tight waiting for long-term opportunities, such as investment-grade bonds with coupons of at least 6% or promising stocks whose prices have fallen enough to make them a bargain.

“The companies that have been unfairly punished, that have the strong balance sheets, that have free [after-expenses] cash flow, that have dividends,” he said. “Particularly in this environment, we like finding companies that not only have a strong record of raising their dividends but that have relatively attractive dividends.”

Pension plans’ lackluster performance puts the retirement funds’ median return for the nine months ended March 31 at 0.82%, said Robert J. Waid, managing director at Wilshire. That likely means higher retirement costs for many state and local government employers and employees who must help make up the difference when these funds, which predominantly have a June 30 fiscal year-end date, don’t meet their returns targets of around 7%.

The North Carolina Retirement Systems, among the nation’s better-funded retirement plans, with an investment-return target of 6.5%, has returned an estimated minus 5.5% through May 6 in its fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

“We have a lot of counties and cities that are struggling right now with inflationary costs, and every time the plan doesn’t perform, they have to put in more money,” said North Carolina Treasurer Dale Folwell. “At the local level, they have nowhere to go but property taxes.”

Quarterly public pension returns last dipped into negative territory in the beginning of 2020, when they endured their [worst quarter on record](#), returning a median minus 13.2% after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic sent markets into turmoil. But a federal stimulus effort soon helped propel retirement funds to seven straight quarters of gains, including their [best quarter on record](#). Now some fund managers worry this downturn could be more sustained.

Central bank efforts to [rein in inflation](#) have dragged down returns on stocks and bonds over 2022. Many funds scrambled to react to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, either marking down assets or selling them at a loss in [response to public pressure](#). Oil and gas stocks, along with commodities, provided one bright spot.

Stocks drive returns at public pension funds. They have just over half of their assets in domestic stocks, according to Wilshire, and another nearly 7% in international equities. Retirement funds with assets of more than \$1 billion have 38% of assets in domestic stocks and nearly 10% in international ones.

“You’ve got higher inflation, you’ve got the war in Ukraine, the supply chain,” Mr. Waid said. “The market’s really nervous about what shoe is going to fall next.”

	<p>Pension plans with assets greater than \$1 billion returned a median minus 3.1% in the first quarter. Those plans tend to field bigger staffs and attract more sophisticated investment professionals.</p> <p>But additional losses may be in store for those retirement funds. Larger funds allocate more money to alternative investments, such as private equity, which typically report returns one or more months behind.</p> <p>“It’s difficult to tell whether that [slightly better median return] was due to the lag in performance,” Mr. Waid said. “Did they actually generate alpha?”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Summer travel new hurdle: high inflation</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-planning-summer-travel-face-a-new-hurdle-high-inflation-11652175001?mod=hp_lead_pos5">https://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-planning-summer-travel-face-a-new-hurdle-high-inflation-11652175001?mod=hp_lead_pos5</a>
GIST	<p>Americans itching to travel this summer after navigating Covid-19 for the past two years face a new disruption to plans: the rising cost of travel.</p> <p><a href="#">Inflation rose to 8.5%</a> in March compared with the same month a year earlier, according to the Labor Department’s consumer-price index—the highest rate in four decades. Gas prices are up about 50% from a year ago. Hotel costs jumped nearly 30%, and airline fares rose 24%, while vehicle-rental costs jumped nearly 14%.</p> <p>April figures set to be released on Wednesday aren’t expected to show much relief.</p> <p>While inflation hasn’t stopped people from <a href="#">spending more so far this year</a>, some Americans are rethinking summer vacation plans. That could dent the economic outlook this summer since spending on services such as entertainment, travel and dining makes up more than 40% of gross domestic product. A <a href="#">Bankrate survey</a> in late March found nearly 70% of more than 2,600 respondents said they are changing their summer travel plans due to inflation.</p> <p>“You could see pockets of weakness [due to inflation], but I think there is still good upside for the travel sector,” said Aneta Markowska, chief economist at Jefferies LLC. “There is still a lot of pent-up demand, there’s still a lot of firepower in terms of the ability to pay even though prices are higher.”</p> <p>Lawrence Fearon of Upper Marlboro, Md., cut one planned trip from the four he planned to do this summer because of higher prices.</p> <p>“This is the first summer a lot of us have been able to see family and take a road trip. Just as everyone is ready to set out: bam! Excruciatingly high gas prices,” he said.</p> <p>Mr. Fearon, a stock-options trader, said he won’t take a road trip to see cousins in New Jersey this summer because of higher prices for gas, food and hotel stays. He still plans to drive to visit family in Jacksonville, Fla., and drive for vacation trips to Ocean City, Md., and Muskogee, Okla.</p> <p>“I have to make a conscious decision, I’ve got about three road trips I can make,” the 55-year-old said. “I have to take those longer trips, and I don’t feel comfortable flying [due to Covid], so something’s got to give.”</p> <p>In April’s consumer-confidence survey by the Conference Board, a private research group, the share of respondents who said they intended to take a vacation in the next six months dropped to its lowest level since last spring when vaccinations were just becoming widely available. The overall consumer-sentiment index decreased slightly in April, with concerns about inflation ranking high among people’s worries.</p> <p>Higher gas prices historically haven’t stopped people from traveling altogether, said Ashley Schroeder, an assistant professor in tourism management at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.</p>



“It changes where and how they travel,” she said, for instance by taking fewer trips, driving to destinations closer to home, and spending less on recreation and dining.

Surveys suggest many Americans want to travel after more than two years of pandemic disruptions and restrictions. Testing requirements for international travel to a number of [European countries have eased](#) recently, and a federal [judge in Florida last month threw out](#) the Biden administration’s requirement that travelers in the U.S. wear masks on airplanes, trains, taxis, buses and other forms of mass transit.

A March poll by [Bank of America](#) found that 62% of respondents expect to travel more than usual in the next 12 months, while 41% said they plan to make up for previously canceled travel in 2022 or 2023. Still, more than 40% of the 1,055 respondents said higher gas prices would cause them to travel less, while 28% said they could take shorter trips to offset higher prices.

Liz Covart, a historian in Boston, said the summer months are a busy period for academic conferences, but the cost of airfares has jumped significantly.

“I was shocked the airfare to New Orleans from Boston was going to be \$900 for a nonstop flight that didn’t involve two or three stops,” she said. Ms. Covart still booked the flight, “because of the pandemic these are the first in-person meetings, there’s a lot of excitement around it.”

The 41-year-old is planning a scuba diving vacation to Costa Rica this summer, too, and paid for the flights with miles because even when she booked in early March “it was getting kind of expensive.”

Brian Chilton, a retired lawyer in Foster, Va., would typically drive to Walt Disney World and visit family in the summer, but is forgoing a summer driving vacation this year due in part to higher gas prices.

“Inflation is bad enough that I find myself thinking more economically,” the 56-year-old said. Instead, he will have family visit him at home and travel only to drop off his son for a summer job in Chattanooga, Tenn. Mr. Chilton said he and his wife are also paying closer attention to expenses like food, by limiting the number of times a week they eat steak and rarely ordering takeout.

Mr. Chilton is staying home more this spring, and said “my yard is in better shape than ever.” He fertilized the lawn and seeded it at the right time because of less frequent travel.

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HEADLINE	05/10 Tech industry remote work trend outside US
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/tech-industry-warns-that-more-remote-work-jobs-are-headed-out-of-u-s-11652175000?mod=hp_lead_pos6">https://www.wsj.com/articles/tech-industry-warns-that-more-remote-work-jobs-are-headed-out-of-u-s-11652175000?mod=hp_lead_pos6</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON—Tech-industry representatives are coming to Capitol Hill this week to warn that <a href="#">the remote-work trend</a> will lead to more offshoring of software developer and other technology jobs unless the U.S. admits more high-skilled immigrants.</p> <p>Remote jobs in tech jumped by more than 420% between January 2020 and last month, growth that was intensified by the pandemic, according to a jobs data review by Tecna, a trade group for regional tech councils. In February, more than 22% of all tech jobs were listed as remote, compared with 4.4% in January 2020.</p> <p>“The level of remote tech positions that are open is drastically higher than it was prepandemic,” said Jennifer Grundy Young, Tecna’s chief executive officer. “That means workers can live anywhere in the U.S., but it also unfortunately opens the door to more outsourcing—workers staying in India, in China, or moving to places like Canada that have more flexible immigration policies.”</p>

The U.S. allows 65,000 skilled-worker visas annually under its H1-B program, plus another 20,000 for people who hold graduate degrees from American universities. Those numbers haven't budged since 2005 despite the sharp rise in tech jobs.

In contrast, Canada, which has been courting tech workers for years, has no cap on visas for immigrating tech workers and entrepreneurs, making it an attractive destination for Indian, Chinese and Eastern European computer coders and software engineers who have had a hard time obtaining U.S. visas.

Toronto added more than 81,000 tech jobs since 2016, more than any other city in North America, according to a report published last year by CBRE Group, a U.S. commercial real estate services and investment firm.

The U.S. unemployment rate for tech occupations was 1.3% as of March, its lowest level since June 2019 and about one-third of the national unemployment rate, according to data from the Computing Technology Industry Association and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many in the tech industry say they are desperate to fill open positions and argue that turning away foreign talent because there aren't enough visas jeopardizes the country's position as a leader in technology and innovation.

"There is tremendous frustration, which I share, among tech companies that have been asking us to improve the system for more years than I can count, and nothing has been able to move," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D., Calif.), chairwoman of the House Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee, whose district includes Silicon Valley. "Ultimately, this could hurt the U.S. economy. There's no rule that Silicon Valley is always going to have the tech crown."

Ms. Lofgren has pushed to increase the number of available visas and is working with Rep. Darrell Issa (R., Calif.) on changes to the H1-B program. She also has proposed legislation to eliminate a per-country cap for employment-based immigrant visas.

A spokesman for Mr. Issa, who is set to retire in January, said the congressman isn't open to increasing the total number of visas.

The skilled-immigration debate has been overshadowed in recent years by border policy and other immigration issues. In congressional hearings, Republican lawmakers have focused on immigration at the border with Mexico as the priority and have said companies should focus on training U.S. workers instead of relying on immigrants.

"This Congress has made very clear, both through its actions and its inaction, that it places Americans last and it places foreign labor and the big corporations that shamelessly exploit it first," said Rep. Tom McClintock (R., Calif.), ranking Republican of the immigration subcommittee, at a hearing last summer about how high-skilled foreign workers are flocking to Canada because of U.S. immigration policies.

Democrats also have halted H1-B legislation in past years, saying they want that program addressed as part of a broader set of immigration changes.

Ms. Grundy Young said tech lobbyists are trying to reset the debate by talking about the H1-B program as a workforce issue rather than an immigration matter.

She also said Tecna's study, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal and set to be released this week, shows that tech jobs shifted during the pandemic from places like Silicon Valley and New York City to smaller hubs, including Nashville.

The pandemic has accelerated a trend of U.S. technology companies looking for easier ways to hire the software engineers and developers they need—and becoming far more open to remote work to get talent on board.

	<p>That has meant leaving workers in their countries of origin, including India, or moving them to English-speaking countries with more lax immigration policies rather than competing for H1-B or other specialized U.S. visas, immigration reform advocates said.</p> <p>“There’s still a desire for the employer to have their employees in the U.S., but if that’s not possible, they will hire talent and place them where they are able to work productively,” said Stuart Anderson, executive director of the National Foundation for American Policy, a nonpartisan research organization that focuses on trade and immigration. “What the pandemic has shown is that remote work in another country can be a productive option.”</p> <p>MobSquad, a Canadian firm that helps match U.S. tech companies with foreign workers and relocates them to Canada, said business has quadrupled since the pandemic began and is working on placements for more than 50 companies.</p> <p>“There was some hesitation before the pandemic to having workers spread across many offices and cities,” said Arif Khimani, Mobsquad’s president and chief operating officer. “Now they’ve proven to themselves that remote work isn’t a problem.”</p> <p>Tecna’s study of how tech jobs have shifted since the pandemic found that Tennessee had the largest increase in tech jobs, with an 8% increase.</p> <p>Even so, research by the Nashville regional technology council found that there are about 15,000 open industry positions and they worry about Tennessee-based tech companies turning to Canada.</p> <p>“The rising need for tech talent is overshadowing the incoming number of tech workers,” said Elise Cambournac, chief executive officer of the Nashville Technology Council.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 Russia hypersonic missiles strike Odessa</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/10/russia-ukraine-war-news-live-updates/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/10/russia-ukraine-war-news-live-updates/</a>
GIST	<p>A volley of Russian missiles landed on the southern Ukrainian city of Odessa on Monday evening, killing one person and injuring seven others, according to Ukrainian authorities.</p> <p>A shopping center and a warehouse were struck by seven Russian missiles, while another three <a href="#">Kinzhal</a> hypersonic missiles targeted “tourism infrastructure,” said Sergey Bratchuk, a spokesman for the Odessa regional military administration. The Washington Post could not independently verify the claim.</p> <p>Earlier in the day, European Council President Charles Michel was forced to seek shelter from Russian attacks during a visit to Odessa. Ukrainian officials later claimed that at least four high-precision Onyx Russian missiles were launched from the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula.</p> <p>Russian forces do not have the capability to pose a ground or maritime threat to Odessa, a senior U.S. defense official <a href="#">told reporters</a> Monday, but attacking the Black Sea port city could pin down Ukrainian forces and prevent them from supporting efforts to defend the eastern Donbas region.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Reimposing mask mandates: bar is higher</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/05/09/mask-mandate-covid-cases/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/05/09/mask-mandate-covid-cases/</a>
GIST	<p>New York City raised its coronavirus alert level last week in response to rising cases, triggering a recommendation — but not a requirement — that people wear masks in public indoor settings. In Philadelphia, officials reimposed a mask mandate last month after cases rose, only to scrap the rule four days after it took effect.</p>

The decisions by the Democratic-run cities illustrate how mask mandates are falling out of favor with American public health authorities in the third year of the pandemic and the bar to bring them back is getting higher, even in places where the requirements were long embraced as a proven way to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

“They are responding to the public,” said Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. “People are really fed up with all of these restrictions.”

The shift away from mask mandates in blue cities and states has been months in the making, and they are not coming back even as cases of the highly transmissible BA. 2 coronavirus variant rise. Democratic governors urged residents to learn to live with a virus that isn’t going away when they lifted mask mandates in quick succession in February and March. The spread of BA. 2 and other subvariants of omicron — which are even more transmissible than their highly contagious predecessor — on the East Coast presented an early test of that commitment.

But the latest uptick hasn’t turned into major surges and has not resulted in overrun hospitals. There was little appetite to impose mask mandates proactively, as Philadelphia had done, in the event cases abruptly spiked and admissions soared.

The broader landscape on masks is also shifting. A federal judge last month struck down a federal mask mandate for transit systems; President Biden said it’s now up to passengers whether they wear a mask. A host of transit agencies and the Democratic governors of New Jersey and Illinois voluntarily ditched their own mandates for trains and buses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last Wednesday repeated its recommendation that passengers mask while traveling.

“In a time when we have fairly mild variant and a public that’s really mask-averse, it might not be the most important thing to mandate masks,” said Chrissie Juliano, executive director of the Big Cities Health Coalition.

But it’s too soon to declare government mask mandates a relic of the past. Under a new CDC framework, people should still wear masks when their communities are considered high risk. But the definition of high risk has shifted to emphasize hospitalizations and the strain on the health-care system, rather than a high volume of cases.

Officials say mask mandates would probably be tied to cases again under a dreaded scenario where a highly contagious variant that evades vaccine protection and causes more severe disease emerges.

Even if future surges are worse, health officials say the bar to mandate masks is getting higher because rising cases are not as worrying as they used to be. Vaccinations have stayed strong as an effective shield against hospitalization and death, although not foolproof, particularly for the elderly and immunocompromised. The expanded availability of therapeutics such as the antiviral Paxlovid are offering another layer of defense for those who do become sick.

“It’s helpful to always look at the actions we need to take in relationship with the tools we have,” said Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “There are ways for us to approach the post-surge time we are in with a lot of care and compassion for other people and we’ve got tools we can use broadly — vaccination, therapeutics, testing.”

Just a handful of places have reimposed mask mandates recently, including Bangor schools in Maine, Milwaukee courts and jails and several colleges and universities.

New York last week reached the medium alert level, meaning there are more than 200 cases per 100,000 residents. Under metrics the city set in March, the government should consider mandating masks in schools at medium alert. City officials did not do so and instead recommended masks indoors.

Health Commissioner Ashwin Vasan told CNBC on Tuesday that officials might bring back mask requirements and vaccine checks if the city moves to high alert when there is substantial pressure on the health care system. Adams has kept a mask mandate in place for children younger than 5, who are too young to be vaccinated. In response to questions about decision-making on masks, a spokesman for the city health department said officials are monitoring data.

In Philadelphia, officials quickly scrapped the mask rule even after describing the mandate as necessary to protect residents of color who face worse outcomes if infected.

“Philadelphia is not a bubble, of course, and no other city was doing that. The federal government was not even doing that. The president said, well, do whatever is best for you,” said Usama Bilal, an assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at Drexel University. “There wasn’t really federal support for what Philadelphia was doing, and it was complicated to keep that up without that kind of support.”

But some experts and activists fear public health authorities have disarmed too soon. They fear that low-income people and people of color who disproportionately work in person, take crowded public transportation and are less likely to be boosted will bear the brunt of the consequences when the mandates are lifted.

Oni Blackstock, a primary care physician who advocates for addressing racial disparities in health care as executive director of Health Justice, said leaders abandoning mask mandates are failing to live up to their commitments to racial equity. Access to antiviral treatment is uneven. The highest-quality respirator masks are also among the most expensive and the federal supply of free N95 masks is limited.

“I suspect we will see again these existing inequities exacerbated by the lifting of these mandates,” Blackstock said. “It puts the onus on people who are not in the best position to protect themselves to do so.”

Others who praised Philadelphia for bringing back its mask mandate at the first signs of a potential surge worry the CDC’s emphasis on hospitalization data for masking is ill-timed.

“Once you already get the hospitalizations peaking, you can’t go back in time a week and change what you did before,” said Abby Rudolph, an associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at Temple University.

When local journalists pressed Philadelphia Health Commissioner Cheryl Bettigole about her credibility to issue mask mandates, she argued the decision to lift the rule in light of declining hospitalizations would build trust.

“By keeping those promises, if I do come back to Philadelphia and have to say this one looks bad, we really have to do something different, I feel like then people are more willing to trust that we’re only going to do what we have to do and not be more restrictive than we have to,” Bettigole said.

Other public health leaders are making similar calculations as they try to nail down when, if ever, to bring mask mandates again.

Allison Arwady, commissioner of Chicago’s Department of Public Health, says the right time to impose mask mandates is when hospital capacity is threatened, as it was when the city faced record admissions during the omicron surge. While she is strongly urging people to wear masks, she is not considering a mandate because hospitalizations are low.

“I don’t want to do that all the time forever. I want to do that at a time the risk is higher so it’s not like we are not crying wolf all the time,” Arwady said. “Mandates don’t do a whole lot to increase trust in government necessarily. We use them when we have to.”

Polling has shown throughout the pandemic masking has been more popular than the vitriolic outbursts seen on social media would suggest. But that support is eroding.

An Axios/Ipsos survey conducted in early April found 56 percent of Americans opposed their state or local government requiring masks in all public places. It was the first time since pollsters started asking the question in August that a majority opposed the mandates.

A Quinnipiac University survey released last month found a slim majority of Americans opposed a mask mandate for public transit, but would also continue wearing masks in planes, trains and buses.

Some worry authorities are jeopardizing public health as a result and that politics are creeping into the decision-making as a midterm election where Democrats are at a disadvantage looms.

Philadelphia's mask mandate prompted criticisms from some Democrats running for statewide office, including gubernatorial contender Josh Shapiro, who called the measure "counterproductive."

In a Washington Post Live interview before the city scrapped its mandate, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney responded to Shapiro's criticism by noting "he is running in a state that's not necessarily always blue, coming from an area of the state that is blue."

Critics say Democrats who are shying away from mask mandates in the face of rising cases are acting like Republicans who turned on mitigation measures early in the pandemic by prioritizing residents fed up with mask rules.

"Democrats in municipalities who are rolling back these mandates are caving in in fear of the political repercussions, but what we are failing to see is this is only turning off constituents," said Byron Sigcho-Lopez, a Chicago alderman.

He has pressed city officials to reimpose a mask mandate, worried rising cases will inflict a heavier burden on Black and Latino neighborhoods with lower vaccination and booster rates. If the city waits until hospitalizations rise, Sigcho-Lopez says, it will be too late to save those lives.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Vax mandate state employees still in effect</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://crosscut.com/news/2022/05/gov-inslee-wont-lift-was-vaccine-mandate-state-employees-yet">https://crosscut.com/news/2022/05/gov-inslee-wont-lift-was-vaccine-mandate-state-employees-yet</a>
GIST	<p>Gov. Jay Inslee is not ready to declare "mission accomplished" on Washington's COVID-19 response.</p> <p>The vaccine mandate for state employees and other pandemic restrictions will continue for now, he said Saturday, May 7, <a href="#">during an appearance at the Crosscut Festival</a>.</p> <p>Case numbers <a href="#">have been climbing again</a> in some parts of the state, but hospitalization and fatality rates are not increasing at the same rates. Inslee maintained that Washington's approach to the pandemic has clearly been very successful.</p> <p>"If we had the same death rate as say Mississippi, we would have had another 19,000 people lose their lives in Washington," Inslee told Bill Radke of Seattle public radio station KUOW. The governor noted that's enough people to fill the Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center.</p> <p>Inslee said the vaccine mandate was just one part of a successful strategy, which also included masking rules and preventing crowding. "Those three things we know unequivocally had a role in reducing deaths in our state," he said. About 12,700 people have died from COVID-related illnesses in Washington state since the start of the pandemic in Washington.</p> <p>When asked when the restrictions would be lifted, Inslee answered "when it makes sense." With cases rising and new variants appearing, the restrictions will remain in place for now, he repeated.</p>



<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p>During the 45-minute interview, the governor also touched on abortion rights, vowing to do what it takes to keep Washington a pro choice state.</p> <p>Both Inslee and Radke acknowledged that not all Washington voters are pro choice and when asked how the governor would address this cultural divide, Inslee said he remained hopeful that people would stay committed to democratic principles, voting and following the will of the majority.</p> <p>Some Washingtonians continue to question whether the governor has overreached with his executive orders concerning the pandemic. But the governor maintained that his decisions are based on the best available science, and his approach has also been confirmed in court, even though some have called his emergency powers declaration unconstitutional.</p> <p>Inslee pointed to the dozens of times his decisions were challenged in state and federal courts and how judges appointed by both Republicans and Democrats have confirmed their constitutionality and that he had the legitimate authority to make these decisions for the state during a global pandemic.</p> <p>“This has not been some rogue executive running rampant like an elephant through the tall grass of our civil liberties,” Inslee said. “The Legislature now has had two or three opportunities to rescind or contravene any of the actual rules or protocols that I have announced and they have confirmed them.”</p> <p>There are 16 other states that currently have emergency orders in place. When Inslee was asked when Washington’s mandates might be lifted, his response was as uncertain as the pandemic has been until now: “It’s when it makes sense that we can eliminate any requirement and not experience more death.”</p>
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HEADLINE	05/09 Seattle losing cops to rising housing costs
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsweek.com/seattle-losing-cops-not-defund-police-rising-housing-costs-1703531">https://www.newsweek.com/seattle-losing-cops-not-defund-police-rising-housing-costs-1703531</a>
GIST	<p>After two years of turmoil led to massive resignations in the Seattle <a href="#">Police</a> Department (SPD), the organization is focusing on replenishing its ranks. But hiring and retention efforts have been hampered by an unusual suspect: a shortage of affordable housing.</p> <p>Carmen Best, who served as chief of police of the SPD from August 2018 to September 2020, with more than 20 years in the Department, and who is now the director of global security for <a href="#">Microsoft</a>, told <i>Newsweek</i> that the rising cost of living is becoming a bigger concern for officers.</p> <p>"The issue when you live in a city like Seattle, or in Southern California, where the housing costs are so high, is that people tend to have to commute a long way for work in order to live in affordable housing," she said. "That, of course, impacts their quality of life."</p> <p>"You've limited your pool of folks who are willing to do the work for that reason," she added.</p> <p>Officers in the Seattle Metropolitan Area, who make \$66,000 a year on average according to salary.com, are finding it increasingly expensive to live within city limits.</p> <p>The average price for a one-bedroom apartment has risen to \$2,190 in Seattle, while the median price of a single-family home within the city has skyrocketed to \$1,127,500. Both prices represent an increase of more than 18% increase from the previous year, according to data from Redfin.</p> <p>Officers in Seattle are struggling to maintain their quality of life as the cost of living rises exponentially. Best said this is making it harder for the Department to retain and recruit talent.</p> <p>Today, the SPD is at its lowest staffing level since the 1970s, when Seattle had two-thirds of its current population.</p>

In the first quarter of this year, the SPD had set out to hire 40 new officers; it only found 13. At the same time, 24 officers were expected to retire, but 43 have already submitted their resignations, according to the Seattle Times.

The Department has lost 383 in-service officers, a 28% reduction in deployable force, since January 2020. This shortage means more hours and expanded responsibilities for those who remain, said Adrian Diaz, who followed Best and is now the Interim Chief of the SPD.

In a recent meeting with the Seattle City Council, he described the ripple effects of the manpower shortage.

"Officers are having to work overtime just to handle the bare minimum," Diaz said. "What this is going to do is create wear and tear on our officers. It creates a whole host of issues, not being able to deal with our own internal trauma because we are constantly going from call to call."

Diaz said these staffing shortages are also making it harder to combat higher crime rates not seen in decades.

"Even when people do need 911 services," he said, "we are not able to respond in an adequate amount of time."

Chief Diaz recognizes that some incoming recruits are choosing to work in nearby, more affordable jurisdictions. Part of this comes down to these officers being deterred by the high cost of living in Seattle.

That said, SPD has lowered the number of new officers it expects to hire this year from 125 to 98.

Speaking on hiring and retention challenges, Steve Soboroff, a former Los Angeles Police Commissioner, said that rising costs of living are the No.1 reason many choose not to apply to police departments in large West Coast cities.

As prices rise in the major cities, local officers must spend a larger percentage of their salaries on basic costs of living.

"This hurdle, the cost of housing, is a major shock to people," Soboroff told the Los Angeles Business Journal last month.

"There are a million reasons why people want to come (to L.A.) and there are five or six, maybe, that they do not," Soboroff added.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association has found that when a police officer carries stress associated with their living situation, it can be damaging to their focus and effectiveness while on the job. That financial stress only adds to the stress factors that come with the job today, including rising crime, declining morale and overtime hours.

City council members and even some police representatives have responded to this officer shortage with solutions like relocation vouchers, housing subsidies, and loan assistance programs.

At a committee meeting on April 26, Councilmember Sara Nelson pushed for the City Council to release as much as \$4.5 million of hiring bonuses for potential new Seattle Police Department officers.

"We are clearly dealing with a public safety emergency," she said. "We do not have enough officers on the street to deal with it, and we need to use every tool in our toolbox to accelerate the hiring of our officers."

Increasing the base pay for officers could help alleviate some hiring issues and improve the quality of the force, Best told Newsweek.

	"We should be making the wages more competitive within policing and law enforcement career paths," she said, "so that we are getting folks who have a broad breadth of education and are committed to the work."
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 King Co. DAJD director John Diaz to retire</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2022/May/09-DAJD-leadership-announcement.aspx">https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2022/May/09-DAJD-leadership-announcement.aspx</a>
GIST	<p>Executive Constantine announced today that John Diaz, Director of DAJD, will retire in late June following a distinguished three-year tenure that included unprecedented changes during the COVID-19 pandemic. A former Seattle police chief, Diaz joined DAJD as interim director in April 2019 and assumed the director position that August. Executive Constantine has appointed Juvenile Division Director Allen Nance to take over the role.</p> <p>“Throughout his career, John Diaz has been an exemplary public servant, in his role as DAJD Director and beyond. I am grateful for his commitment to rethinking the criminal legal system in support of reducing racial disparities and driving community-based alternatives. I wish him well as he embarks on this next chapter of life,” said Executive Constantine. “We are fortunate to have another experienced and committed leader within our ranks to continue the department’s vital work, and I thank Allen Nance for stepping into this role as we move forward.”</p> <p>During his tenure, Diaz worked with partners in the criminal legal system to greatly expand alternatives to secure detention, allowing King County to significantly lower the average daily jail population and the number of detained youth. Diaz has placed equity and social justice at the forefront of his efforts, both for people in the department’s care and its employees.</p> <p>“I want to thank Executive Constantine for the opportunity to lead DAJD. It’s been a privilege to work for the County,” DAJD Director John Diaz said. “I am honored to have served as DAJD’s director, working with the people from this organization who do a very difficult job with professionalism and empathy. They carry out their duties through extraordinary circumstances, including the ongoing pandemic.”</p> <p>Allen Nance has been appointed to the role of Director, subject to approval by the King County Council, and will take over as of June 25. Nance was named Division Director of DAJD’s Juvenile Division in November 2019, following a nationwide search. He has been working to realize Executive Constantine’s goal of maintaining community safety while preparing to close King County’s secure youth detention facility by 2025.</p> <p>“I am humbled by the opportunity to serve King County in this important role leading the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention and want to thank John Diaz for his leadership to the department and his lifelong commitment to public service,” said Nance. “I look forward to the work ahead as we improve conditions of confinement for those in our custody, support the hardworking people of the department, and advance the community safety goals that enhance the quality of life for those who live, visit, or work in our county.”</p> <p>Nance brings decades of experience in adult, youth, and community corrections settings with a sustained commitment to reform. Immediately before joining King County, he served as the chief juvenile probation officer for the city and county of San Francisco, California. He previously led criminal justice policy efforts for the San Francisco Mayor’s Office and held leadership positions for probation departments in Illinois’ DuPage and Cook counties for many years.</p> <p>Quanetta West will take over as interim director of DAJD’s Juvenile Division. She is currently the Juvenile Division deputy director.</p>

	<p>"I am honored to be chosen for this wonderful opportunity within DAJD," said West. "I intend to continue my commitment to partner with the staff, community, and stakeholders as we work together to provide the best care and services for youth in support of their families and the communities we serve."</p> <p>The Department of Adult &amp; Juvenile Detention employs about 900 staff and spans five divisions: the King County Correctional Facility in Seattle, the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, the Juvenile Division, Community Corrections Division, and Administrative Services Division.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Taiwan pivots away from zero-Covid policy</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/world/asia/taiwan-china-covid.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/world/asia/taiwan-china-covid.html</a>
GIST	<p>TAIPEI, Taiwan — Until recently, China and Taiwan were among the last places on earth to pursue a “zero Covid” policy of eliminating infections. For two years, they mostly succeeded in keeping the coronavirus out with tough border controls and rigorous contact tracing.</p> <p>Then came the highly transmissible Omicron variant.</p> <p>Faced with surging coronavirus cases, the two governments are now taking vastly different approaches. In China, the authorities are doubling down. They have imposed stringent lockdowns, mass testing and centralized quarantines for confirmed cases and close contacts. The glittering financial capital of <a href="#">Shanghai</a> has been in a strict and punishing lockdown for more than a month to contain a large outbreak.</p> <p>In Taiwan, by contrast, the government is shifting from a strategy of elimination to one of mitigation. Despite soaring case counts, Taiwan is now allowing people with mild and asymptomatic infections to isolate at home instead of in hospitals. The government slashed the number of days in quarantine required of incoming travelers and people deemed close contacts.</p> <p>Officials are calling it a “new Taiwan model.”</p> <p>“We are now moving from zero Covid to the path of <a href="#">coexisting with the virus</a>,” Chen Shih-chung, Taiwan’s health minister, said at a news briefing on Tuesday, adding that he expected Covid to become more “flulike” in nature.</p> <p>The government’s shift in approach reflects an acceptance of growing evidence that Omicron, while highly transmissible, is less deadly. It is also a recognition that pandemic measures such as quarantine requirements for travelers were stifling economic activity and eroding the island’s international competitiveness.</p> <p>“Even though their response has been a bit slow, they have responded to these voices and to scientific evidence,” said <a href="#">Chunhuei Chi</a>, director of the Center for Global Health at Oregon State University and a former policy adviser to Taiwan’s National Health Insurance Administration.</p> <p>Under the new model, Taiwanese health officials say, they are shifting their focus from looking at total infections to “reducing disasters.” That means redirecting resources to focus on protecting the most vulnerable populations, like older adults and those with underlying conditions. The authorities are also putting more emphasis on vaccinations instead of quarantines and contact tracing.</p> <p>Though cases have surged, officials have emphasized that more than 99.7 percent of the new infections so far have been mild or asymptomatic. On Monday, Taiwan’s health authorities reported 40,263 locally transmitted cases and 12 deaths, bringing the death toll since the start of the outbreak in April to 78. The authorities have warned that daily infections could surpass 100,000 this week.</p> <p>The government’s shift is partly out of necessity. Its Covid strategy allowed Taiwan for much of the past more than two years to be a rare haven, where international concerts and conferences could be held</p>

without fear of the virus. Now, as the rest of the world has dropped border controls and restarted business, that distinction has largely evaporated, and Taiwan risks losing out on tourism and investment by continuing to stay closed.

Political considerations are also at play. Taiwan has used its success with Covid to burnish its image as a beacon of democracy, in contrast to the authoritarian Communist Party of China, which claims the island as its territory.

Unlike China, Taiwan's leaders say, Taiwan can balance the needs of public health with the rights of the individual and the healthy functioning of society. At the other extreme is the crisis in Shanghai, where officials imposed a poorly planned lockdown that sometimes arbitrarily confined residents to mass isolation facilities, separated children from their parents and led to food shortages.

Even in Beijing, which has so far avoided a citywide lockdown, the authorities have sealed off many apartment complexes and neighborhoods, confining residents to their homes, when only a few cases have been found. On Monday, the city announced that schools, which had closed on April 29, one day earlier than a scheduled weeklong break for the May Day holiday, would remain closed until further notice and classes would be online.

Leo Du, 38, who works in venture capital in Beijing, said the inconvenience imposed by the measures was intolerable.

How could it be that two years into the pandemic, he wondered, China was still hoarding toilet paper and maintaining armies of workers in head-to-toe protective suits while the rest of the world was seemingly moving on?

"It makes me very sad and pissed about where I am," Mr. Du said, "seeing people elsewhere living a normal life."

The toll of the lockdowns across China has prompted an unusual outpouring of criticism at home of the party's zero-Covid policy. But Chinese censors have gone into overdrive to scrub dissent, arguing that opening up would only invite untold deaths and chaos.

Beijing has pushed a triumphant political narrative about its success with Covid, claiming that it proved the country's model of centralized power saved more lives than that of liberal democracies. At a news conference last month, Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, commented on Taiwan's recent move away from a zero-Covid policy, saying "you can calculate how many people will lose their lives."

Taiwan wants to show that it does not suffer from the ideological rigidity that has come to define the Communist Party under Xi Jinping. "We will not lock down the country and cities as cruelly as China," said Su Tseng-chang, Taiwan's premier, during a visit to Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control this month.

It's a message that resonates with many citizens. Bill Chu, 45, an engineer at an information technology company in Taipei who was waiting at a hospital for a P.C.R. test on Wednesday, said that seeing reports of the harsh quarantine conditions and food shortages in Shanghai had reinforced his belief that Taiwan was moving in the right direction.

"Every country is different, and their approaches to Covid are different," said Mr. Chu. "I prefer the more people-centered and flexible one."

Mr. Su has said that Taiwan's opening would be "gradual." Even so, the government may be moving too quickly for some.

It appears to have been caught off guard by the surge in cases, with long lines forming at pharmacies and hospitals for P.C.R. and rapid antigen tests. The shift could also be risky for Taiwan's older adults, with

	<p>vaccination rates in that age group lower than that in Singapore and South Korea, countries that have eased restrictions without a significant surge in the death rate from infections.</p> <p>Officials in Taiwan say 69 percent of people age 65 and older had received three shots, up slightly from the month before, but still low relative to the broader population. More than half of the 78 deaths reported in the recent outbreak have been among older adults who were not fully vaccinated. The vaccination of children between the ages of 6 and 11, meanwhile, is being rolled out only this month. More than 2,000 schools have suspended in-person teaching.</p> <p>Another challenge for Taiwan is convincing the public that this change is the right move. In Taipei, even though the city has avoided shutting down businesses, people are staying away. Restaurants, bars and gyms that were once packed are now noticeably quieter. In a community that has largely avoided the coronavirus, fear of outbreaks is not uncommon, and it may take time for residents to accept new norms.</p> <p>Chen Yan-sheng, 37, a human resources manager who lives in New Taipei City, near Taipei, said that when he got Covid last month, he immediately felt afraid and ashamed, because he didn't know anyone else who had it. Since then, though, six other friends tested positive too, he said, and they all seemed to be doing OK.</p> <p>He used to be wary of the island's push to ease restrictions, but has since changed his mind.</p> <p>"I think living with the virus is inevitable," Mr. Chen said. "It's only a matter of time before we all get it."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 States turn to tax cuts as inflation stays hot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/10/us/politics/states-tax-cuts-inflation.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/10/us/politics/states-tax-cuts-inflation.html</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — In Kansas, the Democratic governor has been pushing to slash the state's grocery sales tax. Last month, New Mexico lawmakers provided <a href="#">\$1,000 tax rebates</a> to households hobbled by high gas prices. Legislatures in <a href="#">Iowa</a>, <a href="#">Indiana</a> and <a href="#">Idaho</a> have all cut state income taxes this year.</p> <p>A combination of <a href="#">flush state budget coffers</a> and <a href="#">rapid inflation</a> has lawmakers across the country looking for ways to ease the pain of rising prices, with nearly three dozen states enacting or considering some form of tax relief, according to the Tax Foundation, a right-leaning think tank.</p> <p>The efforts are blurring typical party lines when it comes to tax policy. In many cases, Democrats are joining Republicans in supporting permanently lower taxes or temporary cuts, including for high earners.</p> <p>But while the policies are aimed at helping Americans weather the fastest pace of inflation in 40 years, economists warn that, paradoxically, cutting taxes could exacerbate the very problem lawmakers are trying to address. By putting more money in people's pockets, policymakers risk further stimulating already rampant consumer demand, pushing prices higher nationally.</p> <p>Jason Furman, an economist at Harvard University who was an economic adviser under the Obama administration, said that the United States economy was producing at full capacity right now and that any additional spending power would only drive up demand and prices. But when it comes to cutting taxes, he acknowledged, the incentives for states do not always appear to be aligned with what is best for the national economy.</p> <p>"I think all these tax cuts in states are adding to inflation," Mr. Furman said. "The problem is, from any governor's perspective, a lot of the inflation it is adding is nationwide and a lot of the benefits of the tax cuts are to the states."</p> <p>States are awash in cash after a faster-than-expected economic rebound in 2021 and a <a href="#">\$350 billion infusion of stimulus funds</a> that Congress allocated to states and cities last year. While the Biden administration has</p>



restricted states from using relief money to [directly subsidize tax cuts](#), many governments have been able to find budgetary workarounds to do just that without violating the rules.

Last week, Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida signed [a \\$1.2 billion tax cut](#) that was made possible by budget surpluses. The state's coffers were bolstered by \$8.8 billion in federal pandemic relief money. Mr. DeSantis, a Republican, hailed the tax cuts as the largest in the state's history.

"Florida's economy has consistently outpaced the nation, but we are still fighting against inflationary policies imposed on us by the Biden administration," he said.

Adding to the urgency is the political calendar: Many governors and state legislators face elections in November, and voters have made clear they are [concerned about rising prices for gas, food and rent](#).

"It's very difficult for policymakers to see the inflationary pressures that taxpayers are burdened by right now while sitting on significant cash reserves without some desire to return that," said Jared Walczak, vice president of state projects with the Center for State Tax Policy at the Tax Foundation. "The challenge for policymakers is that simply cutting checks to taxpayers can feed the inflationary environment rather than offsetting it."

The tax cuts are coming in a variety of forms and sizes. According to the Tax Foundation, which has been tracking proposals this year, some would be phased in, some would be permanent and others would be temporary "holidays."

Next month, New York will [suspend some of its state gas taxes](#) through the end of the year, a move that Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, said would save families and businesses an estimated \$585 million.

In Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, has called for gradually lowering the state's corporate tax rate to 5 percent from 10 percent — taking a decidedly different stance from many of his political peers in Congress, who have called for raising corporate taxes. Mr. Wolf said in April that the proposal was intended to make Pennsylvania more business friendly.

Mr. Furman pointed to the budget surpluses as evidence that the \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package handed too much money to local governments. "The problem was there was just too much money for states and localities."

A [new report from the Tax Policy Center](#), a left-leaning think tank, said total state revenues rose by about 17.6 percent last year. State rainy day funds — money that is set aside to cover unexpected costs — have reached "[new record levels](#)," according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Yet those rosy budget balances may not last if the economy slows, as expected. The Federal Reserve has begun raising interest rates in an attempt to cool economic growth, and there are growing concerns about the potential for another recession. Stocks fell for another session on Monday, with the S&P 500 down 3.2 percent, as investors [fretted about a slowdown in global growth](#), high inflation and other economic woes.

Cutting taxes too deeply now could put states on weaker financial footing.

The Tax Policy Center said its [state tax revenue forecasts](#) for the rest of this year and next year were "alarmingly weak" as states enacted tax cuts and spending plans. Fitch, the credit rating agency, said recently that immediate and permanent tax cuts could be risky in light of evolving economic conditions.

"Substantial tax policy changes can negatively affect revenues and lead to long-term structural budget challenges, especially when enacted all at once in an uncertain economic environment," [Fitch said](#). The state tax cuts are taking place as the Biden administration struggles to respond to rising prices. So far, the White House has resisted calls for a gas tax holiday, though [Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, said in April](#) that President Biden was open to the idea. The administration has responded by

primarily trying to ease supply chain logjams that have created shortages of goods and cracking down on price gouging, but taming inflation falls largely to the Fed.

The White House declined to assess the merits of states' cutting taxes but pointed to the administration's measures to expand fuel supplies and proposals for strengthening supply chains and lowering health and child care costs as evidence that Mr. Biden was taking inflation seriously.

"President Biden is taking aggressive action to lower costs for American families and address inflation," Emilie Simons, a White House spokeswoman, said.

The degree to which state tax relief fuels inflation depends in large part on how quickly the moves go into effect.

Gov. Laura Kelly backed a bill last month that would phase out the 6.5 percent grocery sales tax in Kansas, lowering it next January and bringing it to zero by 2025. Republicans in the state pushed for the gradual reduction despite calls from Democrats to cut the tax to zero by July.

"As prices continue to rise for the essentials like groceries, we need to provide relief swiftly," [Ms. Kelly said on Twitter](#).

As Russia's war in Ukraine drives up energy prices, many states have been debating whether to enact gas tax holidays or send out rebates.

This month, Delaware will begin sending out \$300 "[relief payments](#)" to adult residents. The bill signed by Mr. DeSantis will also spend \$200 million of pandemic relief money to suspend its gas tax during October, ahead of the November elections. And Alaska is considering a [suspension of its motor fuel taxes](#) through mid-2023.

Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, a group that promotes lower taxes, has been encouraging governors to eliminate their income taxes altogether and said inflation was changing the calculus of how state officials thought about tax policy. He noted that few Democrats were talking about raising taxes.

"It's more painful to live in a high-tax state," Mr. Norquist said, suggesting that more mobility because of remote work has forced states to keep their taxes more competitive. "It's easier to move, and the places you can move to are much more cosmopolitan than they used to be."

States with high taxes such as New York have been grappling with concerns about residents fleeing for tax purposes. Ms. Hochul said this year that she [would not support any tax increases](#), noting that she did not want those who support art, culture and philanthropy in New York City moving to Miami.

The broad effects of tax policy on inflation are not easy to forecast. David Herzig, a partner at Ernst & Young, said that, in theory, taking money out of the economy with higher taxes would depress rising prices, but that if that led workers to demand higher wages it could have the unintended effect of driving prices even higher.

"We don't know all the knock-on consequences of these decisions," Mr. Herzig, a former tax law professor, said.

Yet with [recent polling](#) showing that inflation is a top worry among voters this year, policies that address higher prices could be critical to political races. Candidates are increasingly focused on how to help people deal with bigger bills.

In Pennsylvania, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat who is running for governor, has proposed eliminating the state's 11 percent cellphone tax, expanding a property tax and rent and rebate program, and providing a \$250-per-vehicle gas tax refund. He favored the gas tax refund, which would be paid for with

	<p>unused pandemic relief money, over a tax holiday because it ensured that oil companies would not reap the benefits.</p> <p>Republicans have yet to settle on a candidate for governor and will decide during a primary election this month, but <a href="#">some of those</a> running have called for cutting gas taxes.</p> <p>On the campaign trail, Mr. Shapiro said, voters view higher prices as a major concern and are looking to politicians for answers.</p> <p>“They talk about the stuff they buy at the grocery store and gas and all of that,” Mr. Shapiro said. “It just costs more, and they want someone to do something about it.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Putin's Victory Day draws global outrage</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/putin-defends-ukraine-war-russia-faces-manpower-sh/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/putin-defends-ukraine-war-russia-faces-manpower-sh/</a>
GIST	<p>Russian President Vladimir Putin defended his war in Ukraine on Monday and likened the conflict to last century's fight against Nazi Germany, but the Kremlin faces serious questions about its ability to replenish its ranks as casualties mount and its wartime tactics face growing scrutiny at home and abroad.</p> <p>Military observers thought Mr. Putin might use his high-profile Victory Day address commemorating the end of World War II to formally declare war on Ukraine. Such a move would give Moscow powers to launch a full-blown draft and call up young soldiers to replace the thousands killed or wounded in the 10-week-old campaign. It's unclear how long Mr. Putin can sustain the war at its current pace without major conscription.</p> <p>Mr. Putin stopped short of that declaration, and his speech lacked claims of any significant victories in a war that most foreign policy analysts say has exposed underlying weaknesses and logistical shortcomings in the Russian military machine.</p> <p>Instead, Mr. Putin blamed the West for the conflict. He said his country had little choice but to launch a “special military operation” to liberate Ukraine's eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions.</p> <p>“Danger was increasing every day. Russia repelled this aggression in a preventive way. This was the only correct decision, and it was a timely decision — the decision of an independent, sovereign and powerful nation,” Mr. Putin said.</p> <p>Thousands of Russian troops and scores of armored combat vehicles were on display in Moscow's Red Square to commemorate the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. Mr. Putin tried to draw a historical parallel between World War II and the war in Ukraine, and he blamed the West for a purported effort to “cancel these millennia-old values” embodied by the Russian state.</p> <p>“This moral degradation paved the way for cynical falsifications of the history of World War II, attempts to incite Russophobia, glorify traitors, mock the memory of their victims and wipe out the bravery of those who fought and suffered for the victory,” Mr. Putin said, according to Russia's state-run Tass news agency.</p> <p>Mr. Putin delivered his speech against the backdrop of conflict in Mariupol and other key cities across southern and eastern Ukraine. The Russian military continued its assault on the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, where 2,000 Ukrainian fighters remained holed up as the final hurdle to full Russian control of the city.</p> <p>Ukrainians inside the sprawling complex vowed to fight in the face of overwhelming odds.</p> <p>“The enemy has a complete advantage in aviation and naval artillery,” Azov Regiment Chief of Staff Maj. Bohdan Krotevych told The Washington Times. “Our secret is very simple: We clearly understand that we</p>

are defending our homeland. We swore an oath to the Ukrainian people, and we will defend our state to the last bullet.”

Maj. Krotevych, who spoke with The Times over the Telegram messaging app, said his unit has been inside the steel plant for two months, sleeping underground as Russia launches its barrage from the air and sea.

“First, they destroyed the positions with all-night artillery and aircraft [strikes], after which the enemy stormed them with infantry and tanks,” he said.

Russian forces on Monday also fired cruise missiles at the strategically vital port city of Odesa, though local officials said no civilians were killed.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy used Russia’s Victory Day celebration to pledge that his forces would ultimately triumph.

“Very soon, there will be two Victory Days in Ukraine,” he said in a video address. “We are fighting for freedom, for our children, and therefore we will win.”

#### Balance of power

A Ukrainian victory seemed virtually impossible in the first few weeks of the war, when Russian forces invaded from multiple directions and set their sights on the capital of Kyiv.

The offensive in the north was quickly thwarted, partly because of Ukraine’s highly effective use of American-made Javelin anti-tank missiles and other weaponry and partly because of Russia’s logistical failures.

Russian forces abandoned the Kyiv campaign and turned their full attention to the disputed Donbas region. Most Western observers viewed the change in strategy as a de facto acknowledgment of failure by Mr. Putin.

“This war is a disaster,” Sen. Lindsey Graham, South Carolina Republican, said on “Fox News Sunday.” “You see the Russian military getting their ass handed to them on the battlefield in Ukraine.”

Moving forward, Russian military leaders face the daunting challenge of replacing soldiers at a level much higher than they anticipated. Specialists say that won’t be easy, especially given Mr. Putin’s apparent reluctance to declare war on Ukraine and institute a nationwide draft.

“When Putin launched his war in Ukraine, he, as well as many in the West, expected the campaign would be quick and involve few Russian casualties. But the action has now entered its third month, and Russian combat losses are estimated as high as 20,000 or more — figures that exceed Soviet losses in ten years of fighting in Afghanistan,” Paul Goble, a scholar with the Washington-based Jamestown Foundation, wrote in a recent piece for the foundation’s Eurasia Daily Monitor.

“Making up for those deaths is not easy, especially in the absence of a declaration of war,” he said. “Moreover, the Kremlin is encountering difficulties with recruiting fresh volunteers. It is having to offer them more money than ever before. And Russia faces problems if it shifts forces from other parts of the country, given that the military is the last line of defense for the survival of the regime in the event of domestic political challenges.”

There are signs of growing domestic unrest in Russia. The Kremlin has been mostly successful at controlling the narrative at home and blocking citizens’ access to news about the war, but Putin’s critics have briefly broken through that wall.

Reuters reported Monday that Russian satellite television menus apparently had been hacked and temporarily included messages critical of the war effort.

“You have blood on your hands,” one of the messages said, according to screenshots obtained by Reuters.

Russian officials are facing increasing harassment abroad as well. Russia’s ambassador to Poland, Sergey Andreev, was reportedly splattered with red paint by protesters when he arrived at a Victory Day ceremony in Warsaw.

Such international outrage has surged as Russia’s war tactics grow more brutal and civilian casualties in Ukraine increase.

This weekend, a Russian airstrike destroyed a school in the eastern Ukrainian village of Bilohorivka, killing at least 60 people sheltering there.

Local officials said two boys, ages 11 and 14, were killed in the attack.

Foreign intelligence officials see growing evidence that Russia’s armed forces aren’t as accurate and precise as previously believed.

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has revealed shortcomings in its ability to conduct precision strikes at scale,” the British Defense Ministry said in a Twitter post on Monday. “Russia has subjected Ukraine’s towns and cities to intense and indiscriminate bombardments with little or no regard for civilian casualties.”

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Ukraine fighters defiant, holdout Mariupol</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/ukrainian-fighters-defiant-russia-pounds-last-rem/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/ukrainian-fighters-defiant-russia-pounds-last-rem/</a>
GIST	<p>Cut off from supplies and under siege, a senior leader of Ukraine’s Azov Regiment says his unit will fight to the “last bullet” as Russian forces continue to assault Ukraine’s final holdout in Mariupol.</p> <p>“The enemy has a complete advantage in aviation and naval artillery,” Azov Regiment Chief of Staff Maj. Bohdan Krotevych told The Washington Times. “Our secret is very simple: we clearly understand that we are defending our homeland. We swore an oath to the Ukrainian people, and we will defend our state to the last bullet.”</p> <p>After months of stops and starts amid heavy Russian bombardment of the strategic port city, Ukrainian officials announced over the weekend that all remaining women, children and elderly civilians have been evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant’s network of underground bunkers, where they had been holed up since Russia invaded in February.</p> <p>But Maj. Krotevych, who spoke with The Washington Times late Monday over the Telegram messaging application, said his unit is still there fighting. The unit has been concealed in the steel plant for two months — sleeping underground as Russia launched its barrage from the air and sea — and emerging amid the onslaught to man a network of firing positions on the surface.</p> <p>“First they destroyed the positions with all-night artillery and aircraft [strikes], after which the enemy stormed them with infantry and tanks,” he said.</p> <p>He said slightly more than 2,000 Azov fighters and support personnel remain dug in at the facility, surrounded by Russian troops.</p> <p>The steel mill has served as the Azov Regiment’s command post for the region since the start of the war, Maj. Krotevych said. Azov fighters gathered food and supplies from other bases, planning to use the sprawling fortress for a strategic fallback as Russia advanced.</p>

SEE ALSO: Putin defends Ukraine war as Russia faces manpower shortages, global outrage

But he said the unit did not expect to be surrounded for months, cut off from additional supplies and without support from other Ukrainian units.

“For the third month in a row, the Azov Regiment has been fighting defensive battles without sleep and rest, without the support of artillery,” he said. “We planned the defense from the very beginning so that we could roll back to the factory. Unfortunately of course we did not expect that the senior [leaders] will not support us, and we will be surrounded for more than two months.”

“I don’t know how much longer we will last,” he said. “Sometimes we wonder to ourselves.”

Maj. Krotevych said all of the food and medicine that was brought into the city by international aid organizations was taken by the Russians. He said fighters are still relying on the food they brought into the factory at the beginning of the war, and the industrial water that is still supplied to the plant, which the fighters boil before they drink.

And the Russian assault on the steel plant shows no signs of letting up. Azov fighters reported 25 Russian sorties over the facility on Saturday night, after Ukraine claimed to have evacuated the last remaining civilians. Russian artillery and mortars continue to bombard the plant, according to the fighters, and they say they are continuing to repel infantry attempts to storm the holdout.

Capt. Sviatoslav Palamar, the regiment’s deputy commander, said in a rare press conference from the bunker on Sunday that the area surrounding the plant remains littered with dead soldiers and civilians.

Azov leadership has repeatedly called on the international community and Ukrainian officials to evacuate wounded fighters.

“People are suffering and some are dying because they can’t get all the necessary medical care,” Capt. Palamar said. “We are shouting for help.”

“We don’t have much time, we are coming under intense shelling,” he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Saturday that he is “working on diplomatic options to save our troops who are still at Azovstal.”

Despite the dire circumstances, the regiment’s intelligence officer, Lt. Illia Samoilenko said in his address alongside Capt. Palamar that Azov fighters have killed 2,500 Russians in Mariupol and wounded another 5,000.

Maj. Krotevych told The Times that because of the Azov Regiment’s resistance waged from the steel plant, the Russians have been forced to maintain a sizable presence in Mariupol rather than commit additional fighters to nearby cities.

“If the enemy aircraft had not worked, we would have repulsed [the Russians] to the edge of the city,” Maj. Krotevych said.

And the fighters say they have no intention of giving up.

“For me, every man must go defend his homeland,” said Maj. Krotevych, who is from Crimea and joined the Azov Regiment after Russia annexed his hometown in 2014. “I would like the world to understand that Russia is a terrorist country. Terrorists must be neutralized.”

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HEADLINE	05/09 Pro-choice target Justice Alito's home
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/justice-samuel-alitos-home-targeted-pro-choice-pro/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/may/9/justice-samuel-alitos-home-targeted-pro-choice-pro/</a>



ALEXANDRIA — Protesters in favor of access to abortion made their displeasure with Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. loud and clear Monday night, marching and chanting through the Washington suburbs to the front steps of the conservative judge's home over his draft majority opinion striking down Roe v. Wade that was leaked last week.

"F— the court and the legislators, we are not your incubators!" one chant went. In another, the approximately 100 protesters shouted, "Alito says post-Roe, we say hell no!"

"Abort the court!" some shouted at one point in front of Justice Alito's home, as law enforcement officials lined his yard and street.

One speaker, who only went by Tom, said restricting abortion access would be only the beginning of Republicans' agenda to limit other rights, such as same-sex marriage.

"There are people out there who say that the type of logic used in this decision to overturn Roe won't be used to attack fundamental human rights in this country. Let me be clear: That's a f—ing lie!" he belted through a megaphone.

Monday night's event, organized by the left-wing climate activist group ShutDown DC, was the latest in a string of protests outside the homes of the Supreme Court's conservative members after a draft majority opinion written by Justice Alito in February knocking down Roe v. Wade was leaked and published by Politico last week.

Organizers created a makeshift candlelight vigil outside Justice Alito's Alexandria home, which represented "all these rights that Alito is threatening to take away."

Protesters described abortions as a fundamental right that is necessary to ensure safe pregnancy terminations. Without it, they argued, abortions would only become more dangerous, rather than less frequent.

During their walk from a nearby shopping plaza where they had assembled, protesters tried to recruit curious neighbors who popped outside to see why their typically quiet suburban neighborhood had suddenly become ground-zero for pro-choice activists.

In reference to a neighbor of Supreme Court Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh who organized a protest outside his home over the weekend, one protester yelled to the onlookers: "You, too, can be like Kavanaugh's neighbors and organize your own vigil!"

Few accepted offers to join the protest, as some looked bewildered or annoyed. One woman stood outside and filmed, smiled and nodded in approval, but declined to join. Another out walking her dog was confused by the protesters and police presence, saying she had unknowingly lived a street away from Justice Alito for the past seven years.

Robin Weissman, 65, and her 21-year-old daughter, Ciara, were among the few who heard the protest from their backyard and felt compelled to join.

"There was a great cartoon that I saw recently. It was a bunch of dogs sitting around a table, and the caption was, 'Planning health care for cats,'" Ms. Weissman said. "That's what's happening."

While she felt that showing up to a Supreme Court justice's private residence rather than their workplace "isn't necessarily the way to go," her daughter compared it to the health care choices that women should be able to make without the government.

"Protesting in front of the justice's house is very personal, just like getting an abortion is," Ciara said.

HEADLINE	05/10 Day 76 of the Russia invasion
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/russia-ukraine-war-what-we-know-on-day-76-of-the-invasion">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/russia-ukraine-war-what-we-know-on-day-76-of-the-invasion</a>
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian forces, backed by tanks and artillery, were conducting “storming operations” on the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, where the southern city’s last defenders remained holed up, Ukraine’s defence ministry said. Petro Andriushchenko, an adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, <a href="#">said Russian forces began “storming” the Azovstal plant</a> after a UN convoy left the Donetsk region.</li> <li>• The United States has seen “anecdotal reports” that some Russian troops in Ukraine are not obeying orders, according to a senior US defence official. The US believed <a href="#">Russian troops and “mid-grade officers at various levels, even up to the battalion level” were refusing</a> to move forward in the Donbas offensive.</li> <li>• The Pentagon said it had seen indications that Ukrainians caught up in Russia’s invasion were being forcibly removed to <a href="#">Russia</a>. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said he “can’t speak to how many camps or what they look like”.</li> <li>• Joe Biden has signed the <a href="#">Ukraine Democracy Defence Lend-Lease Act of 2022</a> to streamline the supply of US weapons and other material to Ukraine or eastern European countries. US congressional Democrats also agreed to provide another \$39.8bn in aid for Ukraine, two sources familiar with the proposal told Reuters on Monday.</li> <li>• The European Council president, Charles Michel, made a surprise visit to the Ukrainian port city of Odesa on Monday. Michel was forced to break off <a href="#">a meeting with Ukraine’s prime minister, Denys Shmyhal</a>, and <a href="#">take shelter when missiles struck the southern Ukrainian city</a>, according to an EU official. Michel lamented that “silos full” of food for export were blocked in the Black Sea port.</li> <li>• In Odesa, Russian missiles struck tourist sites and destroyed five buildings while injuring two people, its city council said. Ukrainian media reported a shopping centre was on fire.</li> <li>• The European Commission chief, Ursula von der Leyen, is heading to Hungary to meet its prime minister, Viktor Orbán, to discuss issues related to the proposed sixth package of EU sanctions, which would include a ban on Russian oil imports to the EU. Von der Leyen has <a href="#">said the commission aims to deliver its opinion on EU membership for Ukraine next month</a>.</li> <li>• Ukraine has submitted the second part of a formal questionnaire to obtain candidacy for EU membership. “Today we have taken another step – a very important and not just a formal step – on our path to the European Union,” Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced in his national address late on Monday evening.</li> <li>• France’s president, Emmanuel Macron, said Ukraine’s EU bid would “take several years, indeed, probably several decades”. Speaking to the European parliament in Strasbourg, <a href="#">Macron suggested creating a “parallel European community”</a> for countries aspiring to join the bloc or, in an apparent reference to Britain, countries that had left the union. Germany’s chancellor, Olaf Scholz, <a href="#">described Macron’s suggestion as “very interesting”</a>.</li> <li>• Russia’s ambassador to Poland was pelted with red paint by people protesting against the war in Ukraine as he went to lay flowers at the Soviet military cemetery in Warsaw. Video footage released by Russian news agencies <a href="#">showed Sergey Andreev with paint on his clothes and face, surrounded by a crowd</a>, some holding Ukrainian flags while chanting “fascists” and “murderers”.</li> <li>• The UN human rights council is due to hold a special session on Thursday to address alleged Russian human rights violations during its war in Ukraine. More than 50 countries, including Britain, Germany, Turkey and the US, backed a request by Ukraine and <a href="#">demanded an extraordinary meeting of the UN’s top rights body</a>.</li> <li>• A mine-sniffing dog credited with detecting more than 200 explosives since the start of the war in Ukraine has been given a medal. Patron, a two-and-a-half-year-old jack russell whose name means “ammo” in Ukrainian, <a href="#">was presented with the award by Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy</a>, in Kyiv.</li> </ul>
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HEADLINE	05/10 China pro-Russia propaganda exposed
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/china-pro-russia-propaganda-exposed-by-online-activists-ukraine">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/china-pro-russia-propaganda-exposed-by-online-activists-ukraine</a>
GIST	<p>A number of Chinese government-linked media outlets and pro-Russia social media accounts are spreading pro-Kremlin sentiment on the Chinese internet by mistranslating or manipulating international news about the war in <a href="#">Ukraine</a>.</p> <p>In response, online, anonymous volunteers – such as those under the Twitter account Great Translation Movement – have exposed China’s pro-Russia propaganda by highlighting mistranslations that falsely blame Ukrainian troops for bombings and atrocities perpetrated by Russian forces against civilians.</p> <p>On 21 April, an <a href="#">article published by the Guardian</a> revealed how civilians, who died during the Russian occupation of the Ukrainian city of Bucha, were killed by tiny metal arrows called flechettes, from shells of a type fired by Russian artillery.</p> <p>However, the South Review, an official state media and subsidiary of the Chinese Communist party, owned by the Guangzhou Daily newspaper group, mistranslated the article, claiming the flechette rounds were fired by Ukrainian forces.</p> <p>“The UK Guardian published the first postmortem findings of the Bucha incidents: they were caused by Ukraine shelling Bucha,” reads the <a href="#">article from South Review</a>. On Weibo, a <a href="#">military-focused account</a> with more than 4.7 million followers added: “Although the Guardian normally publishes anti-Russian comments, this time the forensic doctor’s report turned out to be the exact opposite.” (When checked by the Guardian on 6 May, the author had since <a href="#">modified this Weibo entry</a>).</p> <p>The apparently mistranslated article caused much controversy even on China’s heavily monitored social media. Many English-speaking users of Weibo pointed out the mistake. On 27 April, China Fact Check, under the Shanghai-based <a href="#">the Paper news website</a>, clarified and said it was “mistranslation”.</p> <p>On other occasions, despite Chinese officials preaching a neutral stance on the conflict in Ukraine, pro-Russia social media accounts have manipulated the news coming from the Ukrainian front.</p> <p>For example, on 8 April, in Kramatorsk, in eastern Ukraine, two Russian ballistic missiles exploded over the railway station, dropping cluster munitions, killing 59 people and injuring hundreds of passengers.</p> <p>The same day, a popular military Weibo account with more than 34 million followers <a href="#">falsely claimed</a> the attack was carried out by Ukrainian troops. Towards the end of the entry, the account added a hashtag that suggested US labs in Ukraine were working on eight severely infectious diseases.</p> <p>“In China’s EN-CN dictionary, <i>Russia</i> translates into <i>Ukraine</i>,” the Great Translation Movement, which has about 150,000 followers, said on Twitter.</p> <p>Born shortly after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the Great Translation Movement – a Twitter account and a related hashtag that identifies itself as “fourth estate” and “holds muck-rake in hand, wears crown from gutter” – has been a source for English-language speakers to understand how state-linked Chinese social media discuss the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The decentralised anonymous group is operated by several hundred volunteers around the world. For security reasons, they say, they do not know geographical locations of fellow contributors. But they were glued together by the same mission: contradicting Beijing’s propaganda and naming and shaming those in China who support Putin’s military adventure in his neighbour.</p> <p>“To put it simply, the context behind everything is the colossal gulf between the different types of messaging that the Chinese government shapes for the rest of the world, versus that of within China,” they said in a written statement.</p>

	<p>Debates about Russia’s invasion do exist in China, but on social media, which is heavily monitored, views similar to those in the western media are often met with censorship. Anti-western commentators of the events toe a Kremlin line, blaming Nato and the US for what they call “special military actions”.</p> <p>Last month, some Chinese pundits went so far as to question whether the <a href="#">killings in Bucha</a> were a “staged performance”. “[A]fter all, Zelenskiy is an actor doing what actors are trained to do,” said a military commentator on Phoenix TV. A <a href="#">month earlier</a>, the same pundit said Russia’s invasion was “in self-defence” in the face of US pressure.</p> <p>But as the Great Translation Movement began its crusade against pro-Russian misinformation, Chinese state media also launched their own campaign to discredit it. The nationalist tabloid the Global Times, for example, has since March published a number of articles accusing it of being a part of the “anti-China force”. It even compared the account to the anti-communist McCarthyist crusade in 1950s America.</p> <p>“Such a despicable ‘movement’ has a large potential audience, mostly in the west,” wrote one piece on 31 March. “Some of them are novelty-seeking and feel superior on a cultural level. In light of China’s rapid rise and the west’s decline, these people need an illusional superiority to feel better.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 Sri Lanka troops rescue outgoing PM</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/troops-rescue-outgoing-sri-lanka-pm-as-houses-torched-in-deadly-night-of-unrest">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/10/troops-rescue-outgoing-sri-lanka-pm-as-houses-torched-in-deadly-night-of-unrest</a>
GIST	<p>Sri Lanka has deployed thousands of troops and police to enforce a curfew after five people were killed in the worst violence in weeks of protests over an unprecedented economic crisis.</p> <p>Nearly 200 people were wounded on Monday as prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned, but that did little to calm public anger.</p> <p>Rajapaksa had to be rescued in a pre-dawn operation by the military on Tuesday after thousands of anti-government protesters stormed his official residence in Colombo overnight, with police firing teargas and warning shots to keep back the crowd.</p> <p>Protesters who forced their way into the capital’s “Temple Trees” residence then attempted to storm the main two-storey building where Rajapaksa was holed up with his immediate family.</p> <p>“After a pre-dawn operation, the former PM and his family were evacuated to safety by the army,” a top security official told AFP. “At least 10 petrol bombs were thrown into the compound.”</p> <p>Rajapaksa’s evacuation to an undisclosed location followed a day of violent protests in which five people, including a lawmaker, were killed and nearly 200 wounded.</p> <p>The security official said police kept up a barrage of teargas and fired warning shots in the air to hold back mobs at all three entrances to the colonial-era building, a key symbol of state power.</p> <p>Dozens of homes of top Rajapaksa loyalists were torched elsewhere in the curfew-bound country, which has been under a state of emergency since Friday.</p> <p>The emergency order from president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the outgoing premier’s younger brother, gave sweeping powers to the military as protests demanding the duo’s resignation escalated over the country’s worst-ever economic crisis.</p> <p>Protesters and Sri Lankan religious leaders blamed the former prime minister for instigating the family’s supporters to attack unarmed protesters on Monday, sparking retaliatory attacks.</p>

Rajapaksa's resignation follows months of protests over the country's deepening economic crisis, as once-peaceful protests turned violent. Turmoil began to engulf the country on Monday after violence at a major protest site in Colombo, where pro-government supporters attacked demonstrators and police responded with teargas and water cannon.

In one incident just outside Colombo, a politician from the ruling party opened fire on anti-government protesters blocking his car, killing a 27-year-old, and then later took his own life. According to police, another ruling party politician opened fire on protesters in the southern town of Weeraketiya, killing two and wounding five.

Mahinda Rajapaksa had been asked to resign by his brother at a special meeting on Friday, in an attempt to appease demonstrators who have been taking to the streets in their thousands since March.

Protesters have been calling for both members of Sri Lanka's powerful Rajapaksa political dynasty to be removed from office for mishandling the economy and plunging the country into the worst financial crisis since independence.

Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was president himself for a decade between 2005 and 2015, had reportedly been resistant to stepping down, but on Monday submitted his letter of resignation to the president.

"Multiple stakeholders have indicated the best solution to the present crisis is the formation of an interim all-party government. Therefore, I have tendered my resignation so the next steps can be taken in accordance with the constitution," he wrote.

The resignation is the latest concession made by the Rajapaksas in the face of protracted anger and protests. The president recently agreed to repeal an amendment to the constitution which had concentrated power in his hands and hand power back to the parliament. Other members of the Rajapaksa family who had previously held seats in the cabinet have also stepped down, with the president the only remaining member of the political family still in power.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, known widely as Gota, has repeatedly said he will not resign as president, despite the clarion call of the protests being "Gota go home".

The Rajapaksas have largely controlled Sri Lankan politics for two decades, but the economic crisis has rattled their grip on power in the face of mass unrest from those who had previously been supporters of their brand of chauvinist nationalist politics, which pandered to the country's Sinhalese Buddhist majority.

Sri Lanka's foreign reserves have dropped so low that the country cannot afford to import basic essentials, leading to shortages of fuel, food and medicines. People have been forced to endure daily power cuts of up to 10 hours, fuelling mass protests across the country since March.

Over the weekend, the president declared a state of emergency in the country, the second in recent weeks, in a bid to regain control over the streets.

However, Monday marked a violent shift in the demonstrations when hundreds of pro-government supporters gathered outside the prime minister's residence in Colombo and urged Mahinda Rajapaksa not to resign. The group, some armed with sticks and wooden bars, then launched an attack on an anti-government protest camp nearby, with police reportedly looking on as the clashes began.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Fire districts prepare 'tough' wildfire season</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.q13fox.com/news/fire-districts-in-western-washington-train-for-another-tough-difficult-wildfire-season">https://www.q13fox.com/news/fire-districts-in-western-washington-train-for-another-tough-difficult-wildfire-season</a>
GIST	<b>GRAHAM, Wash.</b> - More and more disastrous <a href="#">wildfires</a> have been sparking up in western Washington in the last several seasons.



Fire districts across the Puget Sound are preparing to battle the fires in the dry, hot temperatures. Monday started a week-long Wildland Urban Interface training session, hosted by [Graham Fire & Rescue](#).

Leaders from 10 different fire agencies on the west side of the Cascades participated in the training.

International Association of Fire Fighters developed and taught the course. Many local firefighters in western Washington are [trained and skilled in structural fires](#), but don't have enough experience fighting wildfires. The lessons give them a chance to practice in the field—learning response and command tactics to help prepare for the hot and dry season.

"This is just an example that we're bringing new training and partnerships with the local fire districts so they can really train their firefighters who are trained in structural fire fighting to also be able to do it in the wild urban interface that we have," said Hilary Franz, Washington Commissioner of Public Lands.

Franz said there were [224 wildfires reported in April 2021](#), mostly due to drought conditions. This April, she said there were only [46 wildfires reported](#). Though this spring has been very wet and cold, Franz said it's no indication it could be a mild fire season.

"We're urging people to not think this is an eastern Washington issue, though. It is an entire Washington issue. We're seeing now 35% of our fires west of the cascades, 65% east side. So, we need people to be ready since it's likely we're going to see another difficult, significant, tough fire season year," said Franz.

Data from the American Lung Association shows that Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima and Bellingham had among the worst air quality in the U.S. due to last year's wildfire season.

Local, state and federal government leaders helped bring the training opportunity to western Washington. Along with participating in the hands-on experience, firefighters have also been advocating for more equipment and training to fight wildfires efficiently.

"We need better funding. We need funding so that we can do more of this, that we can find the equipment and apparatus needs to respond to this hazard," said Oscar Espinosa, chief of Graham Fire & Rescue.

"I'm working on firefighter grants in order to do this kind of training. And of course doing town halls with my colleagues with firefighters to teach people who are homeowners how to keep their homes safe," said Kim Schrier, U.S. Representative for Washington's 8th congressional district.

Last year, the state approved \$500 million over four biennium budgets to boost wildfire response. Franz said part of that money will pay for more aviation support to help to put out flames.

The Commissioner of Public Lands said two million homes in Washington are at risk of wildfire danger due to their location within the wildland-urban interface. Franz is urging people in those areas to be proactive by clearing downed trees, brush and debris off their property and at least six to 10 feet away from their home.

"Be able to go out and make sure your lawn is green, make sure you don't have trees leaning up against your house, clean out your gutters, create that defensible space because it will help your protect your home and your family and it will also go a long way to protecting our firefighters," said Franz.

As of Monday, May 9, more than 600 Pacific Northwest firefighters were dispatched to help fight wildfires in Arizona and New Mexico, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center Twitter.

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[Washington State Department of Natural Resources](#) has more information available online about [wildfire](#) awareness, preparedness and how to report a fire.



HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Woodland Park homeless camp tear down</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.q13fox.com/news/city-to-sweep-homeless-encampment-at-woodland-park-park-closed-through-the-week">https://www.q13fox.com/news/city-to-sweep-homeless-encampment-at-woodland-park-park-closed-through-the-week</a>
GIST	<p><b>SEATTLE</b> - <a href="#">Woodland Park</a> will close this week while the city tears down a <a href="#">homeless encampment</a> that has sat there for months.</p> <p>Seattle Parks and Recreation posted a notice Friday warning that they would start removing personal items this week. Sweeps will begin Tuesday and run through Monday, May 16.</p> <p>Woodland Park is known as the mecca for cross country runners, with more than three miles of rolling hills making it a popular destination. In September, friction grew with residents as homeless encampments started <a href="#">cropping up around the park</a>, prompting demonstrators to petition the city to do something about it.</p> <p>According to the city, their Human Services Department has been working to connect homeless residents to shelter and services before the sweeps began. Of the 61 people believed to be living at Woodland Park, the city said 37 have been referred to services, while another 11 recently-arrived residents have been referred to help, as well.</p> <p>The city said outreach will continue while they sweep homes from the park, including direct transportation to shelters. Personal items will be stored and can be retrieved by calling (206) 459-9949.</p> <p>Homeless encampments in Seattle city parks are nothing new, but now, many parents say they can no longer sit back and look away.</p> <p>This week's closure affects the Upper Woodland tennis courts and Lower Woodland off-leash area, according to the city. Reservations at the tennis courts are canceled through Monday. Parks &amp; Rec will be repairing picnic shelters, public restrooms and vegetation while they transition the park back to its intended use, officials say.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Teen fentanyl treatment faces obstacles</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.q13fox.com/news/fentanyl-treatment-for-teens-faces-parental-obstacles-lack-of-locations">https://www.q13fox.com/news/fentanyl-treatment-for-teens-faces-parental-obstacles-lack-of-locations</a>
GIST	<p><b>SEATTLE</b> - Drug treatment for teens is becoming hard to find, especially in light of the surge of fentanyl overdoses. Confounding the problem is the reluctance of teens to get their parents' permission into drug treatment.</p> <p>Jason Cockburn became acutely aware of this issue recently, when he tried to help two teenage boys get into treatment.</p> <p>"He was disoriented, staggered, falling down, trying to pick stuff up that wasn't there," Cockburn described of his encounter a 15-year-old who was high on fentanyl.</p> <p>The teen had shown up at Second Chance Foundation, a drug recovery center co-founded by Cockburn in Everett.</p> <p>"We took him onto the couch and sat him down, and he started overdosing; we gave him Narcan twice," recalled Cockburn.</p> <p>After another teen showed up, saying he was addicted to fentanyl but couldn't get into treatment—that's when Cockburn started noticing a pattern.</p> <p>"I started reaching out to detox services for him, then it was, 'Oh no, you need the parents' permission, or we don't have these services available, and we don't take youth at all,'" Cockburn said. "It's not easy to get teens into treatment, and the treatment centers that do take teens are few and far between."</p>

Second Chance is a day-use recovery center, and not a medical facility that offers drug treatment.

In 2019, the rate of adolescent overdoses nationwide was 2.36 per 100,000, according the Journal of the American Medical Association. In 2020, that rate jumped to 4.57 per 100,000.

In the first six months of 2021, the most recent numbers available show the rate increased to 5.49 per 100,000.

A primary driver is the increased use of fentanyl, a drug that depending on the dosage, can be 100 times more powerful than heroin and can cause instant death.

"I would be, like, crying on my way to the dope dealer, 'I don't want to do this, I don't want to do this,' and I find myself still doing it," said Justin Low.

The 26-year-old is in recovery at Second Chance. He began his life on drugs at 14 years old, escalated to heroin, and then to fentanyl.

"It just takes over your mind, and even though you can have the best intentions on quitting, it just takes a grip of you, especially fentanyl," said Low.

He can understand how teen drug users wouldn't want a parent's permission to get into treatment. He entered treatment with the knowledge of his parents, who are also in recovery.

"If I had to go to my parents every time to go off and get into treatment it would be very hard, because I want to make my parents happy," said Low.

Across the street from Second Chance is Cocoon House. For 30 years, the organization has been dealing troubled youth, especially those who are homeless and abuse drugs.

"What [we've seen] is a real increase in the number of opioid addicted youth on fentanyl, it's kind of a daily occurrence," said CEO Joe Alonzo.

The age of medical consent in Washington State is 13, which means 13- to 17- year-olds don't need the consent of a parent to seek medical treatment.

But Cockburn and Alonzo say parental consent is still needed with some drug treatment providers.

Drug-related overdose deaths in Washington topped 2,000 in 2021, representing a 66% increase compared to 2019, according to the Department of Health.

"A lot of times that youth is at odds with that parent, or they are on the run from that guardian," said Alonzo. "It becomes a real struggle of the youth making a decision, 'Do I let my guardian know where I'm at, and am I willing to give up an opportunity to be treated in order to get that?'"

Low said the fentanyl surge in Snohomish County began just as the people started to stay home because of the pandemic.

"It just kind of happened overnight, you just woke up and nobody had what we used to do, it was all just the little blue pill," he said. "I started hearing about people dying for the first time in my life and I got fear, cause really big strong guys I know would just drop like flies, fall over dead."

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HEADLINE	05/09 US: Russia's guided missiles miss the mark
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#russia-air-force-ukraine">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#russia-air-force-ukraine</a>

On Monday morning, as columns of armored vehicles and soldiers paraded through Moscow in [celebration of Russia's 1945 victory](#) over Germany in World War II, one element of Russian military power was conspicuously missing: its warplanes. And though officials [blamed their grounding on bad weather](#), Russian planes, pilots and air-to-ground weapons have all grossly underperformed in the war against Ukraine.

The absence underscored President Vladimir V. Putin's failure to build a capable modern air force, as Russian aircrews race in and out of Ukrainian airspace and heave unguided bombs while fleeing enemy surface-to-air missiles that Moscow has still not managed to destroy, even after 75 days of combat.

Russian warplanes are generally flying 200 to 300 sorties each day, a senior Defense Department official told reporters during a briefing on Monday, but have failed to establish air superiority over Ukraine, which continues to fly its own fighters and attack jets against Russian troops. And as the war stretches into its third month, Russia has already expended many of its most accurate weapons, such as cruise missiles and both short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

On May 2, the Pentagon said Russia had fired more than 2,125 such weapons since the invasion began. Their use [dropped sharply after the second week of the war](#), Britain's defense secretary, Ben Wallace, said in a speech on Monday.

The Russians "have blown through" many of their precision-guided munitions, said the senior U.S. official, who was not authorized to speak publicly on details of Russia's shortcomings. "In fact, they continue to hit Mariupol with a lot of dumb bombs."

So-called dumb, or unguided, airdropped munitions, are pre-9/11 relics for the United States and NATO, as Western militaries have now almost completely converted their arsenals with kits that guide bombs to their targets with lasers or GPS satellite signals.

The official also said that sanctions and export controls established after Russia invaded Ukraine had limited Moscow's access to the kinds of electronic components it needed to build guided weapons, thus affecting Mr. Putin's ability to restock his military with modern aerial munitions.

Russia's lack of guided weapons, and their often poor accuracy when used, offers more indications of just how far behind Moscow's armed forces are compared with Western militaries.

Senior U.S. Defense Department officials who spoke with The New York Times on background to discuss intelligence assessments and their analysis of Russia's failures in Ukraine said the evidence seen during the invasion pointed to a Russian guided-weapons program still in its infancy, with pilots unable to quickly locate and engage targets on the ground, and missiles launched into Ukraine that often miss their targets — if they work at all.

The Soviet Union was relatively uninterested in developing conventional guided weapons until the mid-1980s, the officials said, and had engaged in serious research and development of them only in the past two decades. Russia demonstrated some of its new arsenal in airstrikes in Syria beginning in 2015, though only in limited numbers during tightly controlled operations and under extremely favorable conditions.

Instead of being able to quickly target Ukrainian troops and moving vehicles with laser- or satellite-guided bombs, Russia has largely shown it can hit only fixed targets like military buildings or civilian population centers — either by firing volleys of unguided artillery shells and rocket attacks at them, U.S. officials said, or by using large guided ballistic missiles and air-launched cruise missiles that often fail or are inaccurate.

Russian warplanes continue to rely on unguided bombs that are crude, compared even with those the United States built immediately after World War II. Whereas the standard American Mark-80 series of bombs used by NATO can be readily reconfigured for different missions and have a forged steel body, the Russian counterpart is welded together. One senior intelligence official said the Russian design favors

cheap mass production over accuracy, and requires much less assembly before flight — which makes those bombs a more attractive option for use by comparatively untrained Russian forces.

The guided munitions Russia has been using are limited to air-launched Kh-101 cruise missiles deployed from Tu-95 Bear and Tu-160 Blackjack bombers flying in Russian and Belarusian airspace; ground-launched short- and medium-range ballistic missiles like Tochka and Iskander; and a small number of Kalibr cruise missiles fired from warships at sea, one official said.

Many of those missiles were fielded only in the past 10 years, according to a report from the Defense Intelligence Agency. By comparison, the Pentagon was testing its first widely fielded cruise missile, called Tomahawk, in [the late 1970s](#).

Russia's reliance on unguided bombs for its warplanes over Ukrainian airspace has caused confusion among government and civilian weapons analysts alike since the invasion began on Feb. 24, given that just three years ago Russia showed that it did have laser- and satellite-guided weapons — [which it used to attack hospitals in Syria](#).

The difference between Russia's airstrikes in Syria and in Ukraine, however, is vast, a senior Defense Department analyst said. In Syria, Russian warplanes could fly unopposed and loiter over their targets for as long as they wanted to before dropping a guided bomb — something that Ukrainian jets and surface-to-air missiles make impossible.

Defense Department officials also say that Russia's targeting problem has been compounded by a failure to invest adequately in surveillance drones. Just two unarmed Russian models — the Forpost and Orlan — have been observed, while Ukraine has been hitting Russian troops and vehicles with [missiles fired by TB2 drones purchased from Turkey](#).

The problem has also been revealed, U.S. officials said, to be one of scale: Russia has not been able to use the handful of guided bombs it used in certain parts of Syria to support the needs of a massive ground campaign in a country as large as Ukraine. And furthermore, Russian cruise missiles fired at targets in Ukraine have at times missed their targets or even failed completely after launch, American officials said.

They added that Russian war planners have most likely not been able to properly develop so-called target packages — a series of instructions fed into cruise missiles before flight that include instructions on course headings and altitudes that will bring the weapon to its intended destination — for them.

“Syria provided an opportunity to kind of evaluate in an operational real-world situation many of those new systems that the Russians have been developing for quite a long time,” a Defense Department official said in an interview. “But they weren’t pushed to do something at scale, and so when you try to scale that up for something like Ukraine you’re really stressing the system, and could highlight some issues there.”

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 More military aid draws US deeper to war</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#biden-lend-lease-ukraine-weapons-war">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#biden-lend-lease-ukraine-weapons-war</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON — When President Biden signed a modern-day Lend-Lease Act on Monday, 81 years after the original version helped lead the way into World War II, he effectively thrust the United States even deeper into another war in Europe that has increasingly become an epic struggle with Russia despite his efforts to define its limits.</p> <p>Recent days have underscored just how engaged the United States has become in the conflict in Ukraine. In addition to the new lending program, which will waive time-consuming requirements to speed arms to Ukraine, Mr. Biden has proposed \$33 billion more in military and humanitarian aid, a package that congressional Democrats plan to increase by another \$7 billion. He sent the first lady for a <a href="#">secret visit to</a></p>

[the war zone](#). And he provided intelligence helping Ukraine to [kill a dozen generals](#) and [sink Russia's flagship](#).

But even after two and a half months, Mr. Biden is still anxious about looking like the United States is fighting the proxy war that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia says it is. While Mr. Biden publicly sends aid and signed the lend-lease bill on camera, off camera he was livid over leaks about the American intelligence assistance to Ukraine that led to the deaths of Russian generals and the sinking of the cruiser Moskva out of concern that it would provoke Mr. Putin into the escalation Mr. Biden has strenuously sought to avoid.

After reports in The New York Times and NBC News about the intelligence, Mr. Biden called Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III; Avril D. Haines, the director of national intelligence; and William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, to chastise them, according to a senior administration official. That seemed to be where Mr. Biden was drawing a line — providing Ukraine with guns to shoot Russian soldiers was OK, providing Ukraine with specific information to help them shoot Russians was best left secret and undisclosed to the public.

“There’s this constant balancing act the administration has been trying to strike between supporting Ukraine and making sure it can defend itself militarily and at the same time being very concerned about escalation,” said Alina Polyakova, the president of the Center for European Policy Analysis and a specialist on Russia policy.

“It’s increasingly untenable to maintain this kind of hand-wringing,” she added. “It’s probably more effective to say this is what our policy is and we will deal and manage the potential escalation responses we see from the Kremlin.”

From the start of the war, the administration sought to parse its response, deciding which weapons could be called defensive and therefore were acceptable to send to Ukraine and which ones could be called offensive and therefore should not be delivered.

But the line has shifted in recent weeks with the administration [shipping ever more sophisticated military equipment](#) and expressing more openly its ambitions not just to help the Ukrainians but to defeat and [even enfeeble Russia](#). After a visit to the war-torn capital, Kyiv, two weeks ago, Mr. Austin declared that “we want to see Russia weakened to the degree that it can’t do the kinds of things” it has done in Ukraine again, while Speaker Nancy Pelosi said during her own subsequent trip to Kyiv that America “will stand with Ukraine until victory is won.”

Some veteran government officials said Mr. Biden was right to be cautious about too overtly poking Mr. Putin because the consequences of an escalation with a nuclear-armed Russia are too devastating to take chances with.

“Putin wants us to make it a proxy war,” said Fiona Hill, a former Russia adviser to two presidents now at the Brookings Institution. “Putin is still telling people outside Europe this is just a repeat of the Cold War, nothing to look at here. This isn’t a proxy war. It’s a colonial land grab.”

Michael A. McFaul, a former ambassador to Russia now at Stanford University, said there was a difference between clandestinely helping Ukrainian forces target Russian forces and flaunting it. “Yes, Putin knows that we are providing intelligence to Ukraine,” he said. “But saying it out loud helps his public narrative that Russia is fighting the U.S. and NATO in Ukraine, not just the Ukrainians. That doesn’t serve our interests.”

Angela Stent, a former national intelligence officer on Russia and the author of a book on American relations with Mr. Putin, said being too open about what the United States was doing in Ukraine could undermine efforts to turn China, India and other countries against Russia. “For global public opinion, it’s not a good idea,” she said. “They should do whatever they do, but not talk about it.”

Mr. McFaul said he also believed it undermined Ukrainians, making it look like they were dependent on the Americans, a concern that Mr. Biden was said to share in his phone calls with his security officials, which were first [reported by the Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman](#).

But others said the administration has been too cautious in letting Russia set the rules of the conflict — or rather Washington’s guesswork about what would push Russia into escalation. No one in Washington really knows the line that should not be crossed with Mr. Putin, and instead the United States has simply been making assumptions. “Are we having a conversation about red lines with ourselves?” asked Frederick W. Kagan, a military scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. “Because I rather think we are.”

The consequence, he added, is being too slow to provide what Ukraine really needs. “They’ve done amazingly well at making stuff happen in a relatively timely fashion,” Mr. Kagan said of the Biden administration. “But there does seem to be a certain brake on the timeliness of our support driven by this kind of parsing and self-negotiation that is a problem.”

The legislation that Mr. Biden signed on Monday reflected the historical echoes and reversals of the current war. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the original Lend-Lease Act in 1941 to help the British fend off Nazi aggressors in World War II, and it was later expanded to help other allies — including the Soviet Union.

Now, Moscow will be on the other side of the arms channel as the modern-day version, called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, will direct weapons and equipment not to Russian soldiers but to those fighting them.

“Every day, Ukrainians pay with their lives,” Mr. Biden said in the Oval Office as he approved the legislation. “And the atrocities that the Russians are engaging in are just beyond the pale. And the cost of the fight is not cheap, but caving to aggression is even more costly. That’s why we’re staying in this.”

Mr. Biden signed the law on the same day that Russia celebrated Victory Day, the 77th anniversary of the allied defeat of Nazi Germany, a feat facilitated in part by the original Lend-Lease Act.

“This day is supposed to be about celebrating peace and unity in Europe and the defeat of Nazis in World War II,” said Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary. “And instead, Putin is perverting history, changing history, or attempting to change it, I should say, to justify his unprovoked and unjustified war.”

The lending program came as congressional Democrats moved quickly to consider the \$33 billion aid package proposed by Mr. Biden and indicated they would increase it substantially. With Republicans pushing to add more military spending, Democrats insisted on an equal boost for humanitarian aid, nudging the price tag to \$39.8 billion, according to two people familiar with the proposal who previewed it on the condition of anonymity.

Ms. Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic majority leader, spoke by telephone with Mr. Biden on Monday as they finalized the details of the proposal, one of the people said. House leaders want to bring up the measure as early as Tuesday.

The increase reflects a striking consensus in both parties to pour vast amounts of money into the war against Russia, even as lawmakers remain deeply divided on domestic spending. In March, Congress approved \$13.6 billion in emergency aid for Ukraine, and Mr. Biden has warned that those resources would run out soon without new legislation.

It was not clear, however, whether Republicans, whose support would be needed in the Senate, had agreed on the specifics of the proposal. A spokeswoman for Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee said that a deal had not been reached, but that discussions were continuing.



	<p>Democrats plan to advance the package separately from the administration’s emergency coronavirus aid measure, which has become snarled in an election-year dispute over immigration restrictions.</p> <p>“We cannot afford delay in this vital war effort,” Mr. Biden said in a statement. “Hence, I am prepared to accept that these two measures move separately, so that the Ukrainian aid bill can get to my desk right away.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Russia contrives support in occupied areas</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#russia-tries-to-project-support-in-areas-it-occupies-in-ukraine">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/10/world/ukraine-russia-war-news#russia-tries-to-project-support-in-areas-it-occupies-in-ukraine</a>
GIST	<p>As President Vladimir V. Putin presided in Moscow over a Victory Day military march celebrating the Nazi defeat in World War II, Russia also tried to project support in areas it has occupied in Ukraine, staging marches and other public events.</p> <p>These displays were circulated on pro-Russian social media channels.</p> <p>But Ukrainian officials and local citizens said the parades were contrived as propaganda exercises and were not supported by residents.</p> <p>Because of the lack of press access to these areas, it is impossible to verify the authenticity of the events.</p> <p>In the ravaged and destroyed city of Mariupol — which has endured months of relentless shelling by Russian forces — several hundred people marched with a 300-meter-long ribbon of St. George, a black-and-orange Russian military symbol of the Second World War, according to a video shared on Telegram by the pro-Russian outlet Readovka.</p> <p>The head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic, Denis Pushilin, led the march and lit an eternal flame as a van drove behind blasting a Soviet song, according to a video verified by Storyful, a company that monitors social media for newsworthy video.</p> <p>But the city’s leadership called the march “a cynical holiday.”</p> <p>“Mariupol. May 9th,” wrote Petro Andryushenko, an assistant to the city’s mayor, on his Telegram channel. He said people — “mostly Russians” — had been brought from out of town to participate, lured by promises of food.</p> <p>“Against the backdrop of a ruined city and hungry people, it all looks like a cynical holiday to the bones,” Mr. Andryushenko added. He shared some aerial photographs of the march in the city, which showed apparently sparse attendance.</p> <p>A similar event was held in Kherson, the only regional capital to fall to Russia. Dozens of people took to the streets early Monday, according to video circulated by pro-Russian media accounts on Twitter, which was also verified by Storyful.</p> <p>Local residents and the Ukrainian public broadcasting company Suspilne said the bulk of the procession was made up of Russian occupiers.</p> <p>Oleksandr Motuzyanyk, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, said in a video news conference on Monday that some attendees had been brought from Crimea, the region annexed by Russia from Ukraine, to the cities of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia “in order to create propaganda stories for the Russian media,” he said. The statement could not be independently verified.</p>



In Berdyansk — a port city on the Sea of Azov that was occupied by Russian soldiers four days after the invasion of Ukraine began — what looked like several hundred people marched along a road holding photographs, according to a photograph posted on Telegram by Readovka.

TV Zvezda, run by Russia's Defense Ministry, posted a video to its Telegram channel of hundreds of people participating in a similar march in Melitopol, a Russian-occupied city in the Zaporizhzhia region. The woman filming the stream said people were walking "with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts."

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Stock market plunge continues</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/09/business/economy-news-stocks-inflation#stock-market-volatility">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/09/business/economy-news-stocks-inflation#stock-market-volatility</a>
GIST	<p>Wall Street's relentless decline stretched into a sixth week on Monday, fueled by new data from China that added to concerns about a global economy that's being battered by high inflation, rising interest rates and a malfunctioning supply chain.</p> <p>The S&amp;P 500 fell 3.2 percent, adding to a downdraft that has knocked 16.3 percent off the index this year, including a five-week stretch of selling that is the market's longest such decline in more than a decade.</p> <p>The drop has stocks approaching a bear market, Wall Street's term for a decline of 20 percent or more from recent highs, a retreat that serves as a marker of a severe shift in sentiment.</p> <p>The focus of attention on Monday was China's economy, after customs data showed that growth in the country's exports slowed significantly in April and Li Keqiang, the Chinese premier, warned this weekend that the current state of the nation's jobs market was "complicated and grave."</p> <p>The trade slowdown was a product of China's efforts to contain a Covid-19 outbreak with lockdowns that have idled millions of workers, as well as weaker demand for Chinese-made products from the United States and Europe, economists said, and the news ricocheted through global markets: Oil prices slid more than 6 percent, dragging shares of oil producers lower, while stocks in Europe and Asia also plunged. The Euro Stoxx 600 fell 2.9 percent, and the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong dropped 3.8 percent.</p> <p>Investors have a long list of reasons to back away from stocks right now. Rising prices and higher interest rates are sure to hurt consumption in the United States, while the war in Ukraine and the lockdowns in China are hampering supplies of everything from food to energy, exacerbating the inflation problem.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve's effort to cool the economy also means that a crutch for investors over the past two years, cheap borrowing costs and easy access to capital that helped fuel a staggering rally in stocks, is starting to fade.</p> <p>There's no sign that any of Wall Street's major concerns will be resolved soon. The Fed, which raised its benchmark interest rate half a percentage point last week, is expected to keep raising rates until it is confident that consumer prices are finally under control — something investors fear will result in an economic slump in the United States.</p> <p>On Monday, Raphael Bostic, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, said during an interview that, if the economy doesn't respond to the Fed's interest rate increases, it might have to ramp up its efforts to cool growth. That could include raising interest rates by three quarters of a percentage point in one go, though he doesn't think that is necessary right now.</p> <p>"If the economy doesn't respond, to me, a 75-basis-point move could be appropriate — but we won't know that for some time," he said, later adding, "If we really started to see inflation moving strongly away from our 2 percent target, further away, that would be a real concern."</p>

Conversely, any sign that inflation is easing, allowing the Fed to consider slowing its campaign to raise interest rates, would help allay concerns, analysts said.

Annual inflation reached 8.5 percent in March, its fastest pace in over 40 years, with fuel and food driving prices higher, and economists expect that price gains will have slowed slightly when the data on the Consumer Price Index for April is released later in the week. One month of better data probably won't be enough to calm markets, analysts say, but it could be a start.

"The bottom line is that markets don't like uncertainty and the current macro environment is tenuous at best," said Brian Price, head of investment management at Commonwealth Financial Network. "Any positive developments on the geopolitical front, or softer-than-expected inflationary readings, could help to abate the recent selling pressure."

No matter when it ends, there's no question that the recent stretch of volatility has stood out in a market that for years was remarkably placid.

In 2021, there was seemingly no bad news that could stop the U.S. stock market, with the S&P 500 gaining 26.9 percent, and the index had daily gain or loss of more than 2.5 percent just once, on Jan. 27, as meme stocks like GameStop and AMC Entertainment spiked in a speculative frenzy and the Federal Reserve said a resurgent coronavirus was weighing on the economic recovery.

That started to change when the Fed moved away from describing inflation as "transitory," or something that might end as pandemic lockdowns eased, and instead adopted a more aggressive tone toward cooling down rapid prices. Through Monday, there have already been eight days this year with gains or losses of at least 2.5 percent — about one in every nine trading days. All those big daily changes have been in March, April and May.

Strings of big gains and losses are more typical of recessions and the periods that follow them. Before the pandemic wreaked havoc on the stock market in 2020, the last string of big changes was in 2007-11, during the financial crisis and the recovery from it. Before that, the dot-com boom and bust, and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, brought volatility.

Bear markets are similarly uncommon, with the last two having occurred in early 2020 and in the financial crisis before. The 20 percent trigger for a bear market — like the 10 percent trigger for what investors call a "correction" — are somewhat arbitrary thresholds, but they serve as mile markers to show that investors have turned pointedly more pessimistic about the world.

The reasons for that pessimism abound right now, and will "drag the S&P 500 into a bear market," said Victoria Greene, chief investment officer at G Squared Private Wealth, an advisory firm.

"We still have some structural problems — a hawkish Fed, Ukraine, commodity price pressure, Covid shutdowns in China, inflation — that are pressuring growth expectations," she said. "The pressures from the macro world are too much for stocks to overcome at this point."

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 QAnon joins vigilantes at southern border</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/us/border-qanon-arizona.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/us/border-qanon-arizona.html</a>
GIST	<p>SASABE, Ariz. — The 15 migrant children, weary and hungry, stumbled toward a gap in the rust-colored border wall that soars between Mexico and Arizona, nearing the end of their two-week trek north. Unexpectedly, a man in a cap emblazoned with a blackened American flag — traditionally, a message that "no quarter" will be given to the enemy — approached them and coaxed them to his campsite.</p> <p>Soon, the girls and boys, who were from Guatemala, were sitting under a blue tent devouring hamburgers and sausages. Their host for the day in this remote part of the Arizona desert, Jason Frank, an enthusiastic</p>

follower of the QAnon movement, distributed “[Let's Go Brandon](#)” T-shirts featuring an image of President Biden. Giggling and confused, the children changed into the shirts and posed for a group photo. Later, they formed a prayer circle with Mr. Frank and the rest of his team before the Border Patrol showed up.

Mr. Frank and his group, guns holstered on their hips, have been camping out near Sasabe, Ariz., as a self-appointed border force with the stated aim of protecting the thousands of migrant children who have been arriving from the evils of sex trafficking — a favorite QAnon theme.

They are the latest in what over the years has developed into a cottage industry of dozens of armed civilians who have packed camouflage gear, tents and binoculars and deployed along the southern border.

Mr. Frank, a QAnon influencer whose Facebook page in recent months has shown him pictured with such conservative celebrities as Donald J. Trump Jr., Michael Flynn and Sidney Powell, has fashioned his team into a new style of border enforcers, motivated not so much by halting immigration as by guarding the country from other perceived threats — in this case, an unfounded conspiracy theory that migrant children are being funneled into pedophilia rings.

“They are being trafficked, sex trafficked. That’s the No. 1 trade,” Mr. Frank, 44, said as he name-dropped from his list of purported conspirators, starting with the late Jeffrey Epstein. “The money, that’s where it’s at now,” he said.

The federal government has long had concerns that the hundreds of thousands of migrant children who have made their way alone across the border over nearly a decade could be vulnerable to criminal exploitation, and it has put into place an intensive vetting effort to ensure that the young immigrants share legitimate connections with the relatives or family friends who come forward to take them.

But minors crossing the southern border as part of sex-trafficking schemes is unusual, according to groups that monitor and combat trafficking.

“We haven’t heard about migrant children brought in to be sex workers or slaves,” said Stacey Sutherland, an official with the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network. “At the border, it’s overwhelmingly people who paid to be smuggled.”

Federal officials declined to comment on the QAnon group’s activities, and it was unclear whether the volunteers had broken any laws.

For leaders of QAnon, suspicions that migrant children are falling into the hands of sexual predators fit neatly into the movement’s core conspiracy theory — that an elite cabal of pedophiles led by prominent Democrats is preying on innocent children, an elaborate fantasy that gave rise to the [PizzaGate drama](#) during the 2016 presidential campaign. But the new focus on immigration, analysts say, also serves to drum up political support and raise money by tapping into people’s inherent instinct to protect children while promoting hard-line border policies.

“The kids are a prop for them to use to spread their message,” said Mia Bloom, an expert on extremist radicalization and the co-author of “Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon.”

“They are instrumentalizing the children for internal propaganda and to further their political agenda,” she said.

Mr. Frank, who is from Las Vegas, had already become a minor celebrity in conservative circles after [helping to carry a 100-year-old World War II veteran to the stage](#) during a Trump rally in Arizona in 2020. His photos and videos have since reached thousands of supporters across a number of social media platforms.

He arrived in Sasabe in late April towing a borrowed recreational vehicle, which he has been sharing with his adolescent son, other QAnon followers who have cycled through and two large dogs. Inside, he keeps a cache of weapons including pistols and a loaded AR-15 rifle, according to his social media posts.

One day recently, Mr. Frank volunteered information and answered questions about his mission before deciding that he did not want to be interviewed by The New York Times. His personal website states that, after drug addiction and prison life, he found purpose in saving children.

Mr. Frank is inserting himself into one of the most complicated aspects of American immigration. While U.S. authorities have been turning away large numbers of migrants under a pandemic-related public health rule, children who arrive unaccompanied — usually carrying an address and phone number of a relative in the United States they hope to join — have typically been allowed to enter the country. Families from Central America, hoping to free their children from the poverty and gang violence at home, often pay smugglers to route the children through openings in the border wall, knowing that Border Patrol agents will pick them up.

They are then put in shelters run by the Department of Health and Human Services, which conducts background checks on the adults who come forward to take in, or “sponsor,” the children. The agency says it cares for the children “until they are appropriately and safely released to a vetted sponsor.”

Most families probably did not anticipate that Mr. Frank and his crew would set up their own ad hoc screening process.

Parked at a location where gaps in the border wall make it easy for smugglers to send in groups of as many as 30 children at a time, Mr. Frank and his team typically greet the young people with hamburgers and hot dogs and broadcast their arrival on Facebook Live, announcing an intention to keep them safe.

Humanitarian volunteers and immigration activists working in the area said they had been dismayed to see that the children, obviously clueless about Mr. Frank and his beliefs, were being diverted before the Border Patrol picks them up.

“We believe the conduct of this group is illegal and extremely dangerous,” said Margo Cowan, a public defender in Pima County, which includes Sasabe, and a longtime immigration activist. She said the law required those who find children alone to immediately contact a law enforcement officer. (Mr. Frank said his group always contacted the Border Patrol after ministering to the children.)

She said she was particularly alarmed at Mr. Frank’s claims that his group was asking children to provide the addresses and phone numbers of the family members or family friends they planned to join, then contacting those individuals, supposedly to keep the children from falling into the wrong hands. These actions could be seen as harassment of adult immigrants who are receiving the children, she said.

“We have people that call and do welfare checks and keep showing up to make it uncomfortable for them,” Mr. Frank said, referring to the adults who ultimately take the children home with them.

Mr. Frank criticized the government’s screening program, calling it “very wide open with a lot of loopholes.” He added, “That’s why we are out here creating a solution, being a part of it.”

In photos posted on another team member’s Facebook page, Mr. Frank and his colleagues at the camp could be seen cradling an infant, who he said was 30 days old and had recently crossed the border with his young mother.

Members of his team called the man whom the mother said she was planning to join, Mr. Frank told The Times. He said that the group had discovered in its research that two of the four people living at the man’s address had ties to organized crime cartels — claims for which he did not offer proof.

Chris Nanos, the sheriff of Pima County, called the “QAnon types” at the border “nut jobs” but said they were not his responsibility.

“If they are interfering with migrants crossing, Border Patrol should deal with it,” he said, noting that he had a million people across 9,200 square miles to protect.

Migrants are not the only ones who have become targets of the QAnon group’s monitoring activities. On April 25, humanitarian workers were visiting the border wall with a film crew from Tennessee, among them a man who is a U.S. legal permanent resident from Guatemala. Mr. Frank and his team spotted them.

“They drove up to us, screaming, ‘Illegal alien! Illegal alien!’” recalled Gail Kocourek of Tucson Samaritans, who runs a resource center that offers food, clothing and first aid for migrants in the tiny town on the Mexican side of the border.

A chase ensued, with Mr. Frank and another QAnon member trying to force her off the road, according to Ms. Kocourek, who said that they stopped when a Border Patrol vehicle crossed their paths. The agent asked the Guatemalan man for his documents.

One of the team members later uploaded a video of the incident to Facebook, which showed a vehicle following closely behind Ms. Kocourek’s car along a desert road. “Who has time to dig,” Mr. Frank wrote, into “little old ladies running ops for the cartel out here? I have names, addresses, ages, phone numbers already.”

The 15 migrant children who had been led into the QAnon camp last week, some of them appearing no older than perhaps 12, sipped water and munched on granola bars as Mr. Frank got the barbecue going.

A Cuban man who had crossed with them was handed a piece of paper and told, through a Spanish-speaking supporter on the phone, to go child by child, taking down their names, their destinations and the names and numbers of the people receiving them.

The children told a reporter that it had taken them 15 days to complete the journey from Guatemala to the United States over land. They had not eaten since the day before, and they were very tired. They appeared bemused, some of them giggling nervously as Mr. Frank mispronounced words in Spanish.

One of the men working the camp was Justin Andersch, a QAnon vlogger who made headlines this year when he [accosted Gov. Steve Sisolak of Nevada in a restaurant](#), threatening to “string you up by a lamp post.”

Mr. Andersch smiled at the gathered children. “Who wants cookies?” he said.

Following the food, T-shirt distribution, photo op and prayer, Mr. Frank handed out Spanish Bibles and telephone numbers for the children to call, should they need anything. “Gracias,” several replied. One boy kissed the holy book.

Several minutes later, Border Patrol agents showed up, loaded the children into a van and sped off.

A couple of days later, Mr. Frank announced on Facebook Live that he had to leave the wall to take care of some business, and promised to return in two weeks.

“We are building our little army,” he said. “So get ready.”

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HEADLINE	05/09 South Sound firefighters new risk: wildfires
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/south-puget-sound-firefighters-prepare-for-wildfire-risks/281-96669769-74fa-46ba-8fe5-16f94b04084b">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/south-puget-sound-firefighters-prepare-for-wildfire-risks/281-96669769-74fa-46ba-8fe5-16f94b04084b</a>

GIST	<p>GRAHAM, Wash. — Firefighters in western Washington say they need to learn new ways to fight fires, as the risk for wildfires in the region has grown.</p> <p>Darrell Herde never thought he'd have to worry about wildfires.</p> <p>But his rural Pierce County home, where he had lived for nearly 30 years, was destroyed by a wildfire in 2020.</p> <p>"September 8," said Herde. "When you lose everything you've ever had, you don't forget the date."</p> <p>Herde's property was one of six homes destroyed in the fire.</p> <p>"That was an eye-opener," said Graham Fire &amp; Rescue Chief Oscar Espinosa.</p> <p>Espinosa said his agency has purchased new equipment and vehicles to respond to the growing threat of wildfires.</p> <p>This week Graham Fire &amp; Rescue is hosting a training exercise for 10 Pierce-county area fire departments, specifically to prepare for wildfires.</p> <p>"We're busy training for new hazards we call wildland-urban interface," said Espinosa.</p> <p>The training is paid for with Federal Emergency Management Agency grants.</p> <p>Captain Johnny Davidson, a firefighter from Round Rock, Texas, is one of several instructors from around the country training the western Washington firefighters.</p> <p>The training is usually reserved for firefighters in central and eastern Washington, but firefighters in the Puget Sound region say wildfires are something crews and homeowners need to prepare for on both sides of the Cascades.</p> <p>Davidson said homeowners can reduce the risk of being victims by creating a 30-foot buffer zone between a structure and vegetation or combustibles.</p> <p>While the wet spring has kept things lush and green, Espinosa said it does not take long for conditions to dry out.</p>
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HEADLINE	05/09 Why is Washington taxing a (bag) fee?
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/jesse-jones/why-is-washington-taxing-bag-fee/Z6D7ZUCDYNFWBAA2A4QV3R2DFI/">https://www.kiro7.com/news/jesse-jones/why-is-washington-taxing-bag-fee/Z6D7ZUCDYNFWBAA2A4QV3R2DFI/</a>
GIST	<p>KIRKLAND, Wash. — A simple request for a bag has Stephanie Yeazell feeling taxed.</p> <p>"And he said that's nine cents. And I said nine cents? The bag fee is eight," remembers Yeazall. "And he said 'it's taxable.'"</p> <p>Yep, Dan Schacher, from Ken's Market in Seattle, says the state's bag fee which was enacted last fall is subject to sales tax.</p> <p>"Every eight cent bag is a nine cent charge. Every time. And if it's a double bag, that's eighteen cents," says Schacher.</p> <p>To some it's just pennies. But not to Yeazall.</p>

“It’s not pennies when you multiply it by the amount of commerce that goes on in the state in a day, or a week, or a month,” she says. “I have a problem with the taxing of a fee. To me that’s just another way to stick your hand in somebody’s pocket.”

### **Why is the state taxing a fee?**

State Representative Strom Peterson wrote the first bag law in the state as a councilman for the city of Edmonds more than a decade ago. And he sponsored the state bill that banned single-use plastic bags and imposed the fee. And that tax on it.

“So really the way it’s set up is they are selling that bag. So that bag is a sale. So in this state we tax sales,” says Peterson.

His goal is singular:

“This law will reduce the factor of plastic bags in Washington by millions. Literally millions of bags of those thin little plastic bags won’t be used in Washington,” says Peterson.

### **But is the law working for grocers?**

“We haven’t really seen more people bring their own reusable bags. The volume of paper bags that come out of the store are about the same,” says Schacher.

His Ken’s store goes through 17,000 paper bags a month. But he doesn’t break even on the sale.

“No, these paper bags here cost us 26 cents a piece,” says Schacher.

And according to the department of ecology, the law impacts almost all retail businesses.

“Clothing stores, McDonalds, so most any restaurant/retail that does takeout. Mom and pop gas station quick-stops. Truck stops,” says Laurie Davies, solid waste program manager for the Department of Ecology.

Her agency enforces the bag ban.

“Thin film plastic bags and they need to be replaced by reusable bags by customers or customers can buy a paper bag that has 40 percent recycled content to it, or thicker-filmed plastic bags,” says Davies.

### **Where does the money go?**

“I’m curious who gets the tax. I’m curious whether the city gets the tax, or the state gets the tax. Or whoever gets it,” says Stephanie Yeazell.

The fee goes to the business to help offset the cost of the bags.

The sales tax? Yeazell lives in Kirkland - which is in King County - so the majority of that 10.1 percent sales tax rate goes to the state and the Regional Transportation Authority.

We’ve seen businesses that should be charging the bag fee and they don’t. But because of Covid, the enforcement roll-out has been slow. Since no-one’s been taken to task yet, I won’t be a snitch.

But I know who you are.

### **Is the bag ban helping?**

“Yes! This is a big deal,” says Heather Trim with the non-profit Zero Waste Washington.



	<p>She says if we don't get a handle on the plastic bags, we're all going to pay because of dangerous micro-plastics that leech into our waterways.</p> <p>"I think we're at that moment. I think we're at the tipping point," says Trim.</p> <p>And so will this sea of change really make a difference?</p> <p>According to Dr. Erin Meyer, director of conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium, the answer is yes.</p> <p>She says plastics - like from bags - get into water, and fall apart to create microplastics.</p> <p>"Take a deep breath. Take a sip of your coffee. You're having some microplastics with your breakfast every morning. You're having some microplastics every time you breathe in. We know that we're breathing and drinking and eating microplastics every single day. So are the animals that live in the ocean, from the smallest larval fish all the way up through our Orca whales," says Dr. Meyer.</p> <p>So the bag fee is taxed.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 SFD medics delayed to fatal accident</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/sfd-medics-delayed-getting-fatal-accident-scene-after-reports-gunshots/7M2ELL55GFDWPKYJ3XAH234KGI/">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/sfd-medics-delayed-getting-fatal-accident-scene-after-reports-gunshots/7M2ELL55GFDWPKYJ3XAH234KGI/</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — A West Seattle neighborhood is calling for change after a pedestrian was struck and killed there Friday night.</p> <p>And now Seattle Fire is confirming it took 15 minutes for medics to arrive because of a mix-up.</p> <p>The fatal accident happened at 10 p.m. on California Avenue Southwest, just north of Findlay Street.</p> <p>Residents said medics took so long to arrive that they felt they were watching a man die.</p> <p>That man was struck as he and two companions crossed California Avenue Southwest in this area.</p> <p>Eyewitnesses say his body came to rest right across the street.</p> <p>It has been nearly three days since a man was struck and killed here on busy California Avenue Southwest, and the impact is still being felt by those who were here.</p> <p>"Unfortunately, it's not the first time somebody has got hit out here," said neighbor Jamie Dawalt. "That's why I'm very shaken up about it. I haven't been good over the past weekend."</p> <p>Dawalt says she was jolted out of bed Friday night by the sound of screeching tires.</p> <p>"And, don't want to go into much detail, I heard a woman screaming," said Dawalt. "And my boyfriend and I ran out. And everybody else ran out. And everyone called 911."</p> <p>And they waited.</p> <p>"Vehicle versus pedestrian," said the 911 operator. "Vehicle took off (unintelligible) around California Avenue Southwest, Southwest Findlay."</p> <p>According to Seattle fire, the first 911 call about the accident came in at 10:01 p.m. Friday. But almost immediately, they got information that someone may have been shot.</p>

"It's now a shooting. The caller heard a shot," said the 911 operator. "Then the crash and a female yells, 'She's been shot.' "

"Engine 32, Ladder 11 and Medic 32 are all responding," said the SFD dispatcher, "5440 California Avenue Southwest."

That was 10:03 p.m. But the fire units did not immediately drive to the scene, to the consternation of those waiting for help for a dying man.

"My boyfriend took off that way because he heard the fire department and the ambulance," said Dawalt. "So, he ran all the way to the (West Seattle) Junction. They're waiting for the go ahead. And he says, 'No, it was a car, it was a car.' And then they went."

The medics waited until Seattle police gave the all-clear. By then, 15 long minutes had passed since they got the first 911 call.

No one had been shot. But Seattle Fire says when there is a report of shots fired, their protocol is to wait for Seattle police to clear the scene.

The victim died where he lay.

Residents here say they believe this could have been prevented if traffic was forced to stop at this intersection.

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HEADLINE	05/09 FBI milestone: 50yrs women special agents
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/major-fbi-milestone-2022-marks-50-years-of-women-serving-as-special-agents">https://komonews.com/news/local/major-fbi-milestone-2022-marks-50-years-of-women-serving-as-special-agents</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — It is the year of the female FBI special agent with 2022 marking 50 years of women serving in that capacity with the federal law enforcement agency.</p> <p>While the FBI is making special note of their contributions and accomplishments to the agency this milestone year, officials also admit they need more female special agents.</p> <p>"It's a major accomplishment," said Kera O'Reilly, a special agent who also works as lead recruiter for the Seattle FBI office. "I'm here serving as lead recruiter in the hopes that I bring other women into the FBI to tell them that there is a place here for them."</p> <p><b>Women are in the minority at the FBI.</b> Before 1972, only men could apply to the agency.</p> <p>Although more than 40 percent of FBI employees are women, that gap shrinks considerably when it comes to the ranks of employees who work as special agents.</p> <p>Said O'Reilly: "There are a lot of women here, the FBI's professional staff and special agents, but not enough."</p> <p>Right now, the FBI says overall about 23 percent of its special agents are women, meaning nearly 80 percent are men.</p> <p>This comes at a time when many law enforcement agencies in Washington state and across the country are facing recruitment challenges that include community backlash.</p> <p>FBI recruiters say some of the hurdles they see include dealing with misinformation and stereotypes.</p>

O'Reilly said one most people assume FBI special agents come from a military or police background, when in fact, she also recruits scientists, engineers, educators, counselors and cyber professionals.

"We are really looking for people who can talk to people," she said.

The FBI'S Seattle field office has a slightly higher number of female special agents than the Bureau's overall average, and it the local office has a goal of 40 percent of special agent-hires to be women this year.

"The thing to think of here is that FBI has the widest breadth of crime violations and national security concerns that we investigate, which means our agency has so many places for people to serve. We are actively recruiting from diverse backgrounds, not just faith and culture and gender, it's also diversity in work experience and academia," O'Reilly said. "It's so diverse we need the diverse population to bring their unique perspective, find their niche and solve cases alongside of us."

The job comes with a mandatory retirement age of 57 and the hiring process can take 12 to 18 months.

For more information: Go to [www.FBIjobs.gov](http://www.FBIjobs.gov)

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HEADLINE	05/09 No relief in sight for rising gas prices
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/no-relief-in-sight-for-rising-gas-prices-in-seattle">https://komonews.com/news/local/no-relief-in-sight-for-rising-gas-prices-in-seattle</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Drivers in Seattle are now paying record-high prices for gas, with Seattle averaging \$4.93 a gallon, according to GasBuddy. That's 5 cents higher than last week.</p> <p>"I'm paying \$100 a day," ride-share driver Mohamed Ade said as he filled up his vehicle in Seattle.</p> <p>"It's gonna be a pretty bumpy ride this summer," head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy Patrick De Haan said. "It won't always be higher prices or always be rising, but don't expect much relief either."</p> <p>Why? Because we've now switched over to the higher-priced summer gas formula and because of the Russian-Ukraine war.</p> <p>"The only good news is that time may work to solve some of this," De Haan said. "The cure to high prices is that high prices eventually will reduce consumption, but as long as the Russian-Ukraine conflict is ongoing, there probably isn't a whole lot of good news, simply because the world cannot replace the amount of oil lost from Russia sanctions."</p> <p>Diesel's even more expensive than gas right now and since diesel keeps our supply chain moving, we can expect that higher cost to be passed down. Retailers, which rely on truckers and diesel to deliver goods, may encounter delivery surcharges. And governments will need to adjust their budgets to account for higher fuel costs, so even those who don't own a car will likely be paying more.</p> <p>Individually, more drivers are likely to turn to alternatives: riding the bus, train, even scooters and bikes. We talked with a man at a Seattle gas station, filling up his motorcycle.</p> <p>"I just filled up and literally it was like 12 bucks," he said.</p> <p>That will likely get him 150 to 200 miles down the road.</p> <p>If ditching the car or driving less are not options, slow it down. That, De Haan tells KOMO News, can give you another 5 to 15 miles a gallon.</p> <p>"I tried it myself," De Haan said. "I went 55 to 60 (mph) on the interstate instead of 75. My fuel efficiency went from 27 miles a gallon all the way up to 37 miles a gallon."</p>

	<p>That is a significant difference in mileage and certainly a money saver.</p> <p>"But it's also very hard for rushed, stressed Americans to slow down," he added.</p> <p>De Haan also suggests shopping around for the best price, because he said it can vary about 30 cents — even in the same neighborhood.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 WA 50 dams 'poor' condition; need repairs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/ap-washington-has-50-dams-in-poor-condition-that-need-repairs">https://komonews.com/news/local/ap-washington-has-50-dams-in-poor-condition-that-need-repairs</a>
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — An small earthen dam in Stevens County that was rated the worst in the state in 2016 had a slightly improved condition when it was re-inspected in 2021, according to an analysis released this week by The Associated Press.</p> <p>The Van Stone Pit Lake Dam was the only high-hazard dam in the state listed in unsatisfactory condition and in need of immediate repairs, the worst category, when it was inspected in 2016, the analysis found. But it is now one of 50 high-hazard dams in the state listed in poor condition, the analysis found.</p> <p>The state regulates about 1,100 dams, most privately owned.</p> <p>The Van Stone Pit Lake Dam is on land that used to belong to a timber company. The land was foreclosed on sometime after 2016 by Stevens County officials for failure to pay taxes.</p> <p>That 2016 inspection found overgrown vegetation on the earthen dam, holes in the downstream face; seepage on an embankment slope; inadequate spillway to handle heavy rains; and three homes in the probable flood inundation area. Not much has changed, except the dam's rating was raised one notch after the 2021 inspection.</p> <p>"Overall, the inspectors revealed that the dam is in poor condition," the state Department of Ecology said last week. "Ecology recommends that the dam be removed."</p> <p>The agency does not think the dam is in imminent danger of failing.</p> <p>Dating from the 1920s, the earthen dam is of unknown construction "because it was not built under Ecology's permitting process," the agency said.</p> <p>"It is important to note that we do not own this dam, but will be providing assistance because it is in the best interest of the community," Ecology said.</p> <p>The dam, about 23 miles north of Colville, serves no purpose and was created when construction of a road berm impounded the water, documents said. It is 25 feet tall, about 100 feet long and about 15 feet wide.</p> <p>Dams are categorized by the hazard they pose were they to fail. A high-hazard dam is likely to result in the loss of at least one human life if it were to fail.</p> <p>Dams also are assessed by their conditions — ranging from satisfactory to fair to poor to unsatisfactory.</p> <p>A dam in unsatisfactory condition has safety deficiencies requiring immediate action. A dam in poor condition typically has safety deficiencies that may realistically occur, meaning repairs are necessary.</p> <p>An Associated Press analysis tallied more than 2,200 high-hazard dams in poor or unsatisfactory condition across the U.S. — up substantially from a similar AP review conducted just three years ago. The actual number likely is higher, although it's unclear because a couple states don't track such data and many federal agencies refuse to release details about their dams' conditions or the dangers they pose.</p>

Many of the state's giant hydro-power dams are owned by federal agencies or utilities.

There are a variety of reasons for the rising number of troubled dams: A heightened emphasis by some state regulators has turned up new concerns. Deferred maintenance has resulted in worsened conditions.

Dams that were built decades ago now often pose more of a hazard than originally envisioned because homes, businesses and highways have cropped up below them.

A changing climate also plays a role. A warming atmosphere can bring stronger storms with heavier rainfall that can overwhelm older dams lacking adequately sized spillway outlets.

The \$1 trillion infrastructure bill signed last year by President Joe Biden will provide about \$3 billion for dam-related projects, but that's just a fraction of what's needed for safety upgrades and repairs to the thousands of dams across the country.

Of Washington's 50 high-hazard dams listed in poor condition, the most are in Yakima County with seven.

Below are the state's 50 poor condition dams, listed alphabetically by county:

- Camano Island Cattle Co., Adams
- Gap Road Reservoir, Benton
- Paterson Ranch Reservoir, Benton
- Blair Reservoir, Benton
- Meadow Lake, Chelan
- Colchuk Lake, Chelan
- Square Lake, Chelan
- Eightmile Lake Outlet, Chelan
- Klouqua Lake, Chelan
- Elwick, Clallam
- Tri Mountain Estates, Clark
- Haight Reservoir, Clark
- Zirkle Partridge Ranch, Grant
- Beacon Hill, Grays Harbor
- Fairview Reservoir, Grays Harbor
- Lords Lake East, Jefferson
- Swano Lake, Grays Harbor
- Sylvia Lake, Grays Harbor
- College Hill, Grays Harbor
- Newcastle Railroad Embankment, King
- Lake Kittyprince, King
- Koura, Kitsap
- Upper Sunlight Lake, Kittitas
- Johnson Creek Reservoir, Klickitat
- Trask Lake, Mason
- Belfair Wastewater Treated Water Pond, Mason
- Fanchers, Okanogan
- Schweitzer, Okanogan
- Indian Creek, Pacific
- Slavic Lake, Pierce
- Buck Mountain Reservoir No. 1, San Juan
- Whistle Lake, Skagit
- Kayak Lake, Snohomish
- Rainbow Springs, Snohomish
- Nielsen Dam B, Snohomish
- Nielsen Dam C, Snohomish
- Spokane Hutterian Brethren, Spokane

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairfield Sewage Lagoon No. 1, Spokane</li> <li>• Newman Lake Flood Control, Spokane</li> <li>• Deer Park Sewage Treatment, Spokane</li> <li>• Ponderosa Lake, Stevens</li> <li>• Van Stone Pit Lake, Stevens</li> <li>• Kyte, Thurston</li> <li>• Den Hoed Dam No. 1, Yakima</li> <li>• Evans Konnowac, Yakima</li> <li>• Coleman, Yakima</li> <li>• Black Rock Orchards, Yakima</li> <li>• Parker Reservoir, Yakima</li> <li>• Evans Pond, Yakima</li> <li>• Roy Farm Irrigation Pond, Yakima</li> </ul>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Decline of young homeowners in King Co.</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/years-ago-around-half-of-young-king-county-residents-owned-homes-heres-how-much-thats-changed-and-why/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/years-ago-around-half-of-young-king-county-residents-owned-homes-heres-how-much-thats-changed-and-why/</a>
GIST	<p>It's hard to imagine, but at one point it was common for young adults in King County to be homeowners. In 1960, nearly half (48%) of under-35 households in King County owned homes.</p> <p>Since then the homeownership rate among young people has been cut in half. New census data shows that only 24% of under-35 households in the county are owners.</p> <p>Around 55,000 under-35 households were homeowners in King County in 2020 — and that's after the number declined a little since 2010.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the number of young renter households has surged. In 2020, there were about 172,000 under-35 renter households in the county, up 27% from 2010. Rental units include both traditional apartments as well as houses rented out by the owners.</p> <p>A lot of this shift has to do with the local real-estate market, of course. Last month the median home price in King County was \$995,000 — even for a high-earning tech worker, buying a home young would be a stretch.</p> <p>Another factor is that the Seattle area now attracts a lot of transplants from around the country and the world. Many come for career opportunities, and may not know how long they'll wind up staying in the area, so renting could make more sense.</p> <p>With home prices so high, it's not surprising that renter households have grown faster than owner-occupied ones over the past decade. From 2010 to 2020, King County had a net gain of more than 78,000 renter-occupied units, far outpacing the 40,000-unit increase in owner-occupied homes. Rental units increased faster than owned homes both in Seattle and in the surrounding King County. The figures for 2020 and 2010 are averages for five years of data: The 2020 release captures the 2016-2020 period and the 2010 release captures the 2006-2010 period.</p> <p>Home prices aren't the only thing that's changed since 1960 that may be impacting homeownership rates among young adults.</p> <p>People commonly buy their first home after getting married or starting a family. In 1960 the median age for a first marriage in the U.S. was 20 for women and 23 for men. In 2021, it was 29 for women and 30 for men. The average age of first-time mothers was 21 in 1972 and 26 in 2018 (and even older in King County, at 29). Census data records the age of the homeowner, which in the case of a married couple can be either spouse.</p> <p>With more young adults today being unmarried and childless, homeownership may get back-burnered.</p>

And it hasn't been just young people who are more likely to rent — the percentage of renter-occupied units grew by double digits among all age groups from 2010 to 2020.

Because rental units increased faster than owned homes, the homeownership rate took a hit. In 2020, 56.5% of housing units in the county were owner-occupied — the lowest rate since the 1940s.

In 1940, just about half the homes in King County were owner-occupied. But the suburban boom in the postwar period, buoyed by the GI Bill, helped create a generation of homeowners. By 1950, 63% of county housing units were owned.

The peak year for homeownership in King County was 1960, at 65%. The rate has gradually declined since then, dropping just below 60% in 1990, where it's remained (although it did briefly rise above 60% again during the housing-bubble era).

With fewer young adults owning homes in King County, the age of those who do own has gone up significantly over the past decade.

Census data shows that from 2010 to 2020, the number of homeowners age 55 and older increased by close to 56,000, while the number of owners younger than 55 — that includes the millennial and Gen X generations — fell by 16,000.

Nearly half (47%) of all homeowners in the county were 55 and older in 2020, up from a little less than 40% in 2010.

If it sounds as though older people suddenly started buying up all the homes in the area, that's not exactly what happened.

The massive baby boom generation — most of whom already owned homes — matured past age 55 in the past decade. That helped swell the ranks of homeowners in this age bracket. It also hollowed out the number of homeowners in the 35-54 age group.

But it's also true that in such an expensive market, homebuyers will tend to be older and in (or past) their peak earning years.

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HEADLINE	<b>04/09 WA pays more than most in US for gas</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/washingtonians-pay-more-for-gas-than-most-of-the-country-but-why/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/washingtonians-pay-more-for-gas-than-most-of-the-country-but-why/</a>
GIST	<p>Washingtonians for years have paid a premium at the pump.</p> <p>Despite the presence of five oil refineries in the Puget Sound region, the state has had some of the highest gasoline prices in the nation.</p> <p>And through much of the past decade, the disparity has grown, according to a Seattle Times analysis of retail pump prices compiled by AAA.</p> <p>From 2017 through 2021, the average cost of a gallon of regular gas in Washington was 45 cents higher than the national average. That difference, or spread, is almost double the 2011-2016 average of 24 cents, according to the analysis, which is adjusted for state gas-tax increases.</p> <p>Through most of March and April, the spread widened as Washington gas prices skyrocketed in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It then narrowed. But on May 5, the average \$4.75 price of a gallon of Washington regular gas was still nearly 39 cents higher than the national average. That price also was \$1.26 higher than the average Washington regular gallon on that date a year ago, the AAA data show.</p>



Surging gas prices have helped to supercharge the already strong Washington demand for electric vehicles, in a state with some of the lowest power costs in the nation. These prices also have spurred Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., to draft legislation, expected to be introduced to the Senate this month, that would provide more pricing information to federal regulators for market oversight.

In recent weeks, the cheapest gas in the state has been found in Eastern Washington, where stations tap into a pipeline network that can bring in gas from Montana and Utah refineries. On May 5, sparsely populated Asotin County at the Idaho border had the state's best bargain for gas, with an average regular price of \$4.33.

The state's most expensive gas has been marketed in the Puget Sound region and several other areas west of the Cascades that are largely supplied by the state's own refineries. In King County on May 5, the average price for regular gas topped \$4.91.

For Washington truckers and other diesel users, prices also have soared. But as of May 5, the spread between the price paid in Washington and the rest of the nation had tightened to 5 cents once adjusted for taxes, according to The Times analysis of AAA data.

The retail prices paid by motorists result from a mix of factors that include global crude oil prices, the wholesale pricing of gas produced by refineries and the margins, of varying sizes, taken by retailers.

The five Washington refineries are located in Skagit, Whatcom and Pierce counties. They process crude from Alaska's North Slope and other sources, including oil from Alberta, North Dakota and overseas. Along with those in California, these refineries support West Coast fuel markets that are largely cut off from pipeline networks supplying other parts of the nation.

### **Market forces and oversight**

Some oil industry analysts and officials say the premium Washingtonians pay for regular gasoline reflects a greater imbalance between demand and supply along the West Coast. They say gas has been in shorter supply due in part to the closure of several California refineries.

"If I took the population of the states that are bordering the Pacific Ocean, and I look at refining capacity, there's no question that those markets are tighter than they used to be," said Tom Kloza, global head of energy analysis for the Oil Price Information Service, a Dow Jones company that collects fuel pricing information for many clients, including AAA.

"It really always comes back to market forces and choices consumers make when selecting the stations to buy fuel from," said Kevin Slagel of the Western States Petroleum Association.

But the higher fuel costs in Washington, Oregon and California have long triggered government scrutiny.

Some oversight has come from the states.

The Washington Attorney General's Office monitors gasoline markets, publishing a quarterly gasoline report that notes producers and retailers are free to charge whatever price for their product they choose so long as they do not collude or engage in unfair or deceptive practices. As far back as 1977, the office alleged that oil companies fixed prices and artificially created product shortages. The ensuing 15-year legal battle resulted in a settlement of more than \$150 million. Since then that office has launched other investigations, and challenged some oil-company acquisitions over antitrust concerns.

In 2019, the California Energy Commission, at the request of Gov. Gavin Newsom, conducted an investigation of high state gas prices. The commission concluded in a report that prices had climbed as retailers increased their margins above the national average, including higher-priced brands that raised margins "far beyond competitors."

“The overall California increase in retail margins, above that experienced by the rest of the U.S., has resulted in California gasoline consumers paying an estimated additional \$1.5 billion in 2018 and \$11.6 billion over the last five years,” the report stated.

### **Congressional interest**

In Congress, the spring 2022 run-up in prices spurred an April 5 request for a Federal Trade Commission investigation of West Coast gas prices by Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Wa., Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who expressed concern that pricing “cannot be fully explained by supply and demand fundamentals.”

This month Cantwell plans to introduce legislation, co-sponsored by Wyden and Feinstein, that seeks to increase transparency in transportation fuel markets. The bill would direct the Energy Information Administration to collect more detailed information and make more disclosures about the pricing of these fuels. It would also create a new unit within the FTC to monitor markets to increase watchdogging for manipulations or unfair methods of competition used to increase profits. It also would double maximum penalties to \$2 million a day for each violation.

“How can we shine a light on the black box to expose any anti-competitive dark trading, making sure there aren’t a bunch of smart guys in the room hurting consumers because they think we can’t figure out what is happening when there is a lack of transparency?” said Cantwell, chair of the Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee, during an April 5 hearing.

Kloza, in an interview, said his company, OPIS, already provides transparency by publishing wholesale and retail prices obtained through its reporting network.

But Robert McCullough, a Portland-based economist who testified at the April 5 Senate hearing, calls U.S. oil and gasoline markets “less transparent than almost any other commodities.” McCullough is an expert witness for plaintiffs in a California antitrust lawsuit over gas prices. And in his Senate testimony, he called for greater federal reporting of oil and gasoline transactions, which he said is “critical to discourage anomalous trading.”

The draft bill has gotten a chilly reception from oil industry officials.

“Using the power of the FTC to undertake political investigations of American energy companies will not lower gas prices by a penny. Energy prices are determined by supply and demand, not false accusations of ‘price gouging’ motivated by the upcoming election instead of the facts,” said Anne Bradbury, CEO of the American Exploration & Production Council.

In a statement released earlier this month, Frank Macchiarola, an American Petroleum Institute senior vice president, said “Americans are looking for solutions, not political posturing,” and that pump prices are a function of “increased demand and lagging supply combined with geopolitical turmoil and policy uncertainty from Washington.”

### **The electric vehicle pinch**

Gas prices are surging as automobile manufacturers are launching a major shift to electric vehicles.

In the Puget Sound region, electric car dealers report that demand for the vehicles far outstrips available supplies, which have been severely crimped by disruptions of the supply chain.

Tommy Thoensen, general manager of Lee Johnson Nissan of Kirkland, said all electric Leafs have been presold before they arrive at the dealership. Nissan has not kept up with demand as it becomes increasingly difficult to get parts out of China, he said.

“We have 15 coming in this month, all sold. Only one coming in June and one coming in July,” Thoensen said. “If I could get an unlimited supply, I could probably sell 60 a month.”

In Washington, the fuel for the vehicles is produced by utilities that operate under very significant price constraints.

More than half the state's power is produced by public utilities, such as Seattle City Light. They are required to be based on the actual costs of providing power, including investments in operations, capital improvement and debt service.

Electricity also is produced by regulated private utilities such as Puget Sound Energy. These utilities must submit their rates for approval to the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, which is charged by the Legislature to ensure customers get "reasonable rates" and companies earn a fair profit.

The prices at fast-charging stations, such as those operated by Tesla or Electrify America, do not fall under state regulation. But so long as electric car owners charge at their home or at a charging station installed by a utility, the prices reflect those of a nonprofit or regulated utility.

The federal Energy Department calculates the cost of an "eGallon," comparing the average cost of fueling an electric vehicle in Washington to that of a similar gas-powered vehicle. The Washington eGallon cost, last updated in March 2021, was 81 cents compared with a national average eGallon cost of \$1.16.

Tonia Buell, a Washington state Department of Transportation official helping to develop a West Coast network of fast-charging stations, said electric vehicles also have lower maintenance costs.

"It's a great time to buy an electric car — if you can find one," Buell said.

For the vast majority of Washington motorists tied to petroleum fuels, price relief is not expected anytime soon. Proposed European sanctions on Russian crude helped send U.S. oil prices above \$110 a barrel—and gas prices are forecast to continue to rise.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Airfare to remain high into next year</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/air-travel-demand-high-summer-2022/281-be154e50-fa42-48a1-8ce8-18c0fb352721">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/air-travel-demand-high-summer-2022/281-be154e50-fa42-48a1-8ce8-18c0fb352721</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Looking to take off? You might want to take a look at the cost of airfare. Surging demand has led to increased prices and fewer flight options.</p> <p>Travel company Hopper said for Summer 2022, prices are up 34% compared to pre-pandemic. Hopper's <a href="#">Summer 2022 Travel Guide</a> says demand, fewer flights and jet fuel prices have led to the highest price for summer travel in at least the last five years.</p> <p>"You've got this huge ramped up demand, a supply problem, on top of a staffing problem and trying to make up for lost ground financially," said Mike Estill, chief operating officer of the Western Association of Travel Agents. "So, it's almost a perfect storm."</p> <p>Estill expects fares to remain high at least into next year. He said prices are all based on demand.</p> <p>"I can find you a ticket to Paris for \$250, [but] a ticket to Medford for \$900," said Estill. "How does that work?"</p> <p>Like other industries, airlines are working to catch up by hiring staff and re-introducing flights.</p> <p>"There's this whole recertification process that goes on with the airplane itself," explained Estill.</p> <p>Estill recommends people book early, look for deals and, if possible, be flexible. Taking off to visit a new place might be your best chance at catching an affordable flight.</p>

	"Find a place you've never been before and go check out something new. Don't go where everyone else is going," said Estill.
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Seattle Schools settles sex abuse lawsuit</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/seattle-schools-settles-sexual-abuse-lawsuit-for-3-million/">https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/seattle-schools-settles-sexual-abuse-lawsuit-for-3-million/</a>
GIST	<p>Seattle Public Schools has reached a \$3 million settlement with a former Ballard High School student who was repeatedly sexually abused by a former soccer and basketball coach over three years.</p> <p>The district knew 38-year-old Meghan Miller, who was arrested in 2018, was a danger to students but hired her anyway, according to the lawsuit filed in December 2020 in King County Superior Court. Miller pleaded guilty in 2019 to one count of child molestation and two counts of sexual misconduct with a minor. She is a registered sex offender.</p> <p>"This situation that occurred with our client at Ballard was entirely preventable," said William L. Dixon, the former Ballard student's attorney. (The student was identified by the initials A.L. in the lawsuit to protect her privacy.) "The Seattle school district failed at multiple levels. The abuse our client suffered has a profound effect on her and will have an effect on her for many years to come."</p> <p>After the lawsuit was filed, "SPS participated in good faith in several mediations to reach a mutually agreeable financial resolution with the plaintiff," district spokesperson Beverly Redmond said in an email. "SPS Human Resources has now implemented a central review process when hiring with all positions as a further safeguard against employing individuals with a questionable employment history."</p> <p>Seattle Schools paid \$77,000 of the settlement. The rest of the money was paid by the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool, Redmond said.</p> <p>Miller did not respond to requests for comment.</p> <p>She worked as an assistant soccer and basketball coach at Roosevelt High School in 2007 and was let go in 2009 because she crossed boundaries with students repeatedly, according to the lawsuit. The former coach slept over at a student's house, engaged with students on social media, and invited students out to lunch, dinner and movies, Dixon said.</p> <p>In 2010, Miller was rehired as a soccer coach at Ballard and later also became an instructional assistant, the lawsuit says. She was assigned to work with students with special needs. Miller began grooming A.L. in an after-school program, the lawsuit says, and took advantage of the social and emotional struggles A.L. was going through.</p> <p>Miller would let A.L. walk her to her classes, visit her before and after school, and communicate with A.L. on social media, according to the lawsuit. Some of the messages were sexual.</p> <p>"This is not a single failure where something happened on one occasion and someone slipped through the cracks and was rehired," said Steven T. Reich, A.L.'s attorney. "There were multiple failures here."</p> <p>Seattle Schools failed to properly document complaints made against Miller, Reich said. Miller lied on her application to work at Ballard and didn't disclose she was let go from Roosevelt. District officials didn't catch the omission, even though officials knew she was fired for crossing boundaries with students, he said.</p> <p>Miller started sexually abusing A.L. in 2016 when she was 15 years old and did so weekly until the allegations came to light in 2018, according to the lawsuit. The abuse occurred in locker rooms, outside areas, in Miller's office, and around the neighborhood.</p> <p>"... Miller's grooming behavior and boundary violations were so ubiquitous that her direct supervisor, a teacher at the school, had to repeatedly caution her about professionalism and appropriate boundaries," the</p>

	<p>lawsuit says. “On several occasions, Miller’s supervisor reported her concerns about the inappropriate relationship between Miller and A.L. to the school psychologist for Ballard High School. The supervisor was told by the psychologist to stay out of it and mind her own business.”</p> <p>Ballard High administrators “were not privy to all the information,” Reich said. “The reason given to rehire her at Ballard — it was viewed as a mistake in judgment by a younger coach and they wanted to give her a second chance.”</p> <p>Still, Dixon said, there were district officials who knew about the boundaries Miller repeatedly crossed with students.</p> <p>This past school year Seattle students have rallied against the district’s handling of sexual harassment and assault complaints, and have demanded stronger sexual harassment policies. Last week the school board approved two new sexual harassment policies.</p> <p>Although not all student demands were met, the policies mark a change in how the district is talking about and handling sexual harassment claims.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 Mount Hood Skibowl bans mountain bikes</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mount-hood-resort-bans-mountain-bikes-after-losing-lawsuit/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mount-hood-resort-bans-mountain-bikes-after-losing-lawsuit/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PORTLAND — Mt. Hood Skibowl in Oregon will keep cyclists off its forested trails this summer after losing a lawsuit from a man who said he slammed into a signpost and was paralyzed from the waist down.</p> <p>A Multnomah County jury awarded \$11.4 million to Gabriel B. Owens this spring after the cyclist’s lawyers said he hit a rut and struck a wood sign installed next to the double black-diamond Cannonball bike trail July 31, 2016, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.</p> <p>Owens, 43, settled the case for \$10.5 million after the ski resort’s lawyers threatened to appeal the jury verdict, which could have tied up the money for years, according to Owens’ lawyer, Gretchen Mandekor.</p> <p>The ski resort should have installed collapsible markers at the trail crossing, Mandekor said during the trial, likening the trail’s condition to “a speed bump on a highway” that caused the former pro-cyclist to lose control of his bike.</p> <p>In an undated statement on its website, Mt. Hood Skibowl called the verdict “unprecedented” and said it would temporarily suspend mountain bike operations this summer.</p> <p>“After 32 years without a serious mountain bike claim of any kind, the winds have shifted,” the company said. “Eliminating all risks with recreational activities — especially in downhill mountain biking through forests at high speed — is something that is just not possible.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 Alaska ‘meltdown’; flight cancelations</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/boeing-aerospace/alaska-airlines-suffers-another-spate-of-flight-cancellations-infuriating-passengers/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/boeing-aerospace/alaska-airlines-suffers-another-spate-of-flight-cancellations-infuriating-passengers/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Alaska Airlines passengers suffered another bad run of flight cancellations over the weekend.</p> <p>Internal data from Alaska, obtained by The Seattle Times, showed 47 flights were canceled on Friday and 41 more on Saturday, affecting the travel plans of 13,500 passengers.</p> <p>Independent data from airline flight tracking firm FlightAware showed another 61 cancellations Sunday, 8% of Alaska’s total scheduled flights.</p>

And FlightAware showed the trouble bleeding into Monday, as planes out of position caused further cancellations. As of 9 a.m., Alaska had canceled 36 flights Monday, or 5% of its schedule.

Meanwhile, on Monday Alaska's pilot union emailed a strike authorization ballot to its members. The pilots have through May 25 to complete the ballot.

The cancellations caused more chaos for travelers and drew complaints about Alaska's service and support.

"Alaska is in meltdown," wrote Dale Christensen via email Saturday. "They're squandering years of customer goodwill."

On Friday, Alaska canceled his Sunday evening flight home from New Orleans to Seattle and offered no alternatives.

"Your flight was canceled and due to limited flight availability, our automated system was unable to find a new flight for you within the next couple of days," was Alaska's message. He was invited to cancel and ask for a refund.

When he called the phone number provided, the wait time on hold was cited as "5 to 7 hours."

Christensen left New Orleans a day early, giving up one night at his Airbnb and a day at the jazz festival. He booked the only flight home he could get on short notice to be back for work Monday: an 11-hour journey via New York on Delta Air Lines.

Other passengers slammed Alaska on Twitter.

"Hey @AlaskaAir, is there any reason for me to keep flying with you at all?" wrote one Bellingham resident after his flight from Seattle to Chicago was canceled Sunday.

And an Edmonds woman used the hashtag "#infuriating" after checking in online Sunday for a Monday morning flight from Boston to Seattle for her family of four, only to find it canceled.

She had received no email or text, and the hold time for a customer service agent on the phone was more than four hours. She said she got a \$500 refund and had to book a flight on another airline for \$545 for each passenger.

Alaska was alone among the major U.S. carriers with this level of canceled flights over the weekend. Rival airlines all showed less than 1% of scheduled flights canceled on Sunday, except for Delta at 2%.

The weekend cancellations followed even worse chaos in early April and at the beginning of this month. On both occasions, Alaska blamed a pilot shortage.

In response to those incidents, Alaska management said it would reduce its schedule to match the number of available pilots so as to avoid last-minute cancellations.

On Monday, Alaska said in a statement that while its reductions in scheduled flights meant it had pre-canceled trips in advance where no pilot was available, it is "still exposed to daily cancellations related to absences, due to our limited reserves."

The statement said things will improve in June when more pilots graduate from its training school.

"We proactively reduced June flying to the same level flown in April, but we will have more first officers graduated from training and ready to fly," Alaska said.

Meanwhile however, the ongoing problem is clearly damaging the airline's reputation.

	<p>The impasse with the pilot union could be contributing to the problem; many pilots may be unwilling to volunteer for open flights beyond their normal schedule, even when the airline offers extra pay at 150% of the normal rate.</p> <p>In a union message to the pilots Friday, Air Line Pilots Association Alaska unit chairman Will McQuillen called for a 100% strike vote to convey a message of resolve to management.</p> <p>The union will hold informational gatherings about the vote to answer questions from pilots and their partners.</p> <p>The ability of transport workers, including airline pilots, to strike is governed by the Railway Labor Act, which mandates a drawn-out mediation process before a strike could happen.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 'Dire' fire conditions persist in Southwest</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2022/05/09/newmexico-fire-danger-southwest/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2022/05/09/newmexico-fire-danger-southwest/</a>
GIST	<p>Serious fire weather conditions cover the southern Plains and Desert Southwest on Monday, continuing a multiday stretch of bone-dry and windy conditions that will last into the midweek. Forecasters at the National Weather Service in Albuquerque are describing the situation as “dangerous and dire” as large fires grow and conditions are ripe for any new ignitions to erupt.</p> <p>The Weather Service’s Prediction Center is calling it a “volatile combination of windy and dry conditions” that could foster “extreme [fire] behavior” and “promote rapid [fire] spread.” It designated a top tier “extremely critical” wildfire risk for northeastern New Mexico and southeast Colorado Monday.</p> <p>This most serious danger zone includes Las Vegas, New Mexico, and Pueblo, Colorado. Surrounding that is a much broader “critical” risk across the remainder of New Mexico, the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, southeast Colorado, southwest Kansas and adjacent northern Arizona.</p> <p>It comes as numerous large fires are burning in the Southwest, including New Mexico’s Calf Canyon fire northeast of Santa Fe. It’s torched 189,767 acres as the state’s second-largest fire on record, and is 43% contained. The blaze, the cause of which is under investigation, ignited April 19 before merging with the Hermit’s Peak Fire to the east, a prescribed burn that fire crews lost control of amid strong winds.</p> <p>On Sunday evening, the Calf Canyon made a run to the east-northeast, prompting new mandatory evacuations in parts of San Miguel and Mora County, adding to nearly 13,000 people who had already fled the blaze.</p> <p>Nearly 1,700 personnel were actively involved in combating the fire as of Monday morning. Inciweb, a wildfire information clearinghouse, reports the fire is devouring a “a significant amount of dead and downed fuels in the understory.” They blame “severe drought exasperated by strong winds and high temperatures,” which has also delayed the green-up of vegetation and allowed for an earlier start to fire season. Much lower than normal snowpack during winter contributed to the drought.</p> <p>By Monday evening, red flag warnings for dangerous fire conditions will have persisted for 59 hours in the area, a “rare multiday event,” according to NM Fire Info, an interagency website providing updates on the fires in the state.</p> <p>Another large blaze in New Mexico, the Cerro Pelado Fire, to the west of Santa Fe, has burned over 40,000 acres and is 11% contained. Residents of the Los Alamos County, known for the Los Alamos National Laboratory where the first atomic bomb was developed, have been told to be ready to evacuate if the blaze expands.</p>



Fire season came with a vengeance in early April, weeks earlier than usual. It ordinarily ramps up in May and peaks in June before the sudden arrival of monsoonal moisture. Forecasters are becoming increasingly concerned.

“This is not that typical for this early in the season,” said Tuck Jones, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Albuquerque. “In fact, it’s potentially record-breaking in terms of the number of critical fire weather days we’ve seen in April and May.”

Setting the stage for the fire are historic drought conditions in the area. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, one-quarter of New Mexico is in a level 4 out of 4 “exceptional” drought. That’s beyond severe drought, and marks the point at which the Rio Grande begins to dry up.

“No surface water is left for agriculture, [and] farmers use private wells,” states the U.S. Drought Monitor. “Bears encroach on developed areas; migratory birds change patterns.”

And that’s just the background heading into an upcoming fire event. The weather will be equally disconcerting, with hot, dry weather building on the heels of gusty winds.

“We haven’t had that many systems coming along,” explained Jones in a phone interview. “We’re looking at dry air that’s moved over the area. It’s pretty much stayed like that for a while.”

Equally troubling is the current jet stream pattern, which has favored sprawling storm systems repeatedly moving north of the Four Corners. Subsequently, there haven’t been any widespread rain events. Instead, New Mexico and the Southwest just get the westerly winds on the backside of each counterclockwise-swirling system, each round of which introduces a renewed insurgence of stale desert air.

As that air descends down the Rockies, it undergoes “adiabatic compression,” a physical process that results in additional warming and drying.

“When we’re talking historic events, that’s what we mean,” said Jones. His office has issued red flag warnings 28 times since April 1.

On Monday, a “dryline,” or the leading edge of arid desert air, was in central Texas and western Oklahoma, with westerly winds behind it sapping the ground of any moisture. In New Mexico and Texas Hill Country, relative humidity percentages could dip to as low as 4%.

At the same time, sustained winds will blow between 20 and 30 mph out of the west-southwest, which will cause any spark to rapidly spread. Gusts could top 75 mph in the higher elevations. High wind warnings are in effect for many mountaintops across the Southwest.

Denver was included in a red flag warning, with meteorologists urging residents to “avoid burning or any outdoor activity that may produce a spark and start a wildfire.” It was just over five months ago that Louisville and Superior, two Boulder County towns on the northwest side of Denver, were scorched by the most destructive wildfire in the Centennial State’s history.

Over the next several days, winds may slacken some but dry, gusty conditions are predicted to persist. Winds will abate nightly before resuming each afternoon. The breeze will gradually turn more out of the southwest Tuesday and south-southwest Wednesday.

The outlook isn’t good for the beleaguered region.

“A dire and critical to extreme fire weather event continues,” the National Weather Service in Albuquerque summarized.

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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/rare-cases-of-covid-returning-pose-questions-for-pfizer-pill/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/rare-cases-of-covid-returning-pose-questions-for-pfizer-pill/</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (AP) — As more doctors prescribe Pfizer’s powerful COVID-19 pill, new questions are emerging about its performance, including why a small number of patients appear to relapse after taking the drug.</p> <p>Paxlovid has become the go-to option against COVID-19 because of its at-home convenience and impressive results in heading off severe disease. The U.S. government has spent more than \$10 billion to purchase enough pills to treat 20 million people.</p> <p>But experts say there is still much to be learned about the drug, which was authorized in December for adults at high risk of severe COVID-19 based on a study in which 1,000 adults received the medication.</p> <p><b>WHY DO SOME PATIENTS SEEM TO RELAPSE?</b></p> <p>Doctors have started reporting rare cases of patients whose symptoms return several days after completing Paxlovid’s five-day regimen of pills. That’s prompted questions about whether those patients are still contagious and should receive a second course of Paxlovid.</p> <p>Last week, the Food and Drug Administration weighed in. It advised against a second round because there’s little risk of severe disease or hospitalization among patients who relapse.</p> <p>Dr. Michael Charness reported last month on a 71-year-old vaccinated patient who saw his symptoms subside but then return, along with a spike in virus levels nine days into his illness.</p> <p>Charness says Paxlovid remains a highly effective drug, but he wonders if it might be less potent against the current omicron variant. The \$500 drug treatment was tested and OK’d based on its performance against the delta version of the coronavirus.</p> <p>“The ability to clear the virus after it’s suppressed may be different from omicron to delta, especially for vaccinated people,” said Charness, who works for Boston’s VA health system.</p> <p>Could some people just be susceptible to a relapse? Both the FDA and Pfizer point out that 1% to 2% of people in Pfizer’s original study saw their virus levels rebound after 10 days. The rate was about the same among people taking the drug or dummy pills, “so it is unclear at this point that this is related to drug treatment,” the FDA stated.</p> <p>Some experts point to another possibility: The Paxlovid dose isn’t strong enough to fully suppress the virus. Andy Pekosz of Johns Hopkins University worries that could spur mutations that are resistant to the drug.</p> <p>“We should really make sure we’re dosing Paxlovid appropriately because I would hate to lose it right now,” said Pekosz, a virologist. “This is one of the essential tools we have to help us turn the corner on the pandemic.”</p> <p><b>HOW WELL DOES PAXLOVID WORK IN VACCINATED PEOPLE?</b></p> <p>Pfizer tested Paxlovid in the highest-risk patients: unvaccinated adults with no prior COVID-19 infection and other health problems, such as heart disease and diabetes. The drug reduced their risk of hospitalization and death from 7% to 1%.</p> <p>But that doesn’t reflect the vast majority of Americans today, where 89% of adults have had at least one shot. And roughly 60% of Americans have been infected with the virus at some point.</p> <p>“That’s the population I care about in 2022 because that’s who we’re seeing — vaccinated people with COVID — so do they benefit?” asked Dr. David Boulware, a University of Minnesota researcher and physician.</p>

	<p>There's no clear answer yet for vaccinated Americans, who already have a hospitalization rate far below 1%.</p> <p>That may come from a large, ongoing Pfizer study that includes high-risk vaccinated people. No results have been published; the study is expected to wrap up in the fall.</p> <p>Pfizer said last year that initial results showed Paxlovid failed to meet the study's goals of significantly resolving symptoms and reducing hospitalizations. It recently stopped enrolling anyone who's received a vaccination or booster in the past year, a change Boulware says suggests those patients aren't benefitting.</p> <p>At a minimum, the preliminary data should be released to federal officials, Boulware said. "If the U.S. government is spending billions of dollars on this medicine, what's the obligation to release that data so that they can formulate a good policy?"</p> <p><b>CAN PAXLOVID BE USED TO HELP PREVENT COVID-19 INFECTION?</b></p> <p>Pfizer recently reported that proactively giving Paxlovid to family members of people infected with COVID-19 didn't significantly reduce their chances of catching it. But that's not the end of the story. Pfizer is studying several other potential benefits of early use, including whether Paxlovid reduces the length and severity of COVID-19 among households.</p> <p>"It's a high bar to protect against infection but I'd love to see data on how Paxlovid did against severe disease because it may be more effective there," said Pekosz.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 NYC bldg. fire caused by e-bike batteries</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/nyc-fire-ebike-batteries">https://www.foxnews.com/us/nyc-fire-ebike-batteries</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>An e-bike battery was determined to be the cause of a building fire in New York City, officials said Monday, making it the latest blaze caused by lithium-ion batteries used to power electric bicycles and scooters.</p> <p>The New York Fire Department said the battery was charging inside a bicycle store when the blaze started in Queens just before 2 p.m. at a three-story mixed occupancy building.</p> <p>The blaze extended to the second floor of the structure, the FDNY said.</p> <p>More than 100 firefighters responded and two sustained minor injuries and were taken to a hospital. The fire was extinguished by 5:10 p.m.</p> <p>E-bike batteries have been responsible for several fires across the city in recent weeks.</p> <p>A May 2 fire in Sunset Park, Brooklyn was determined to have been caused by lithium-ion batteries from an electric scooter repair business.</p> <p>In April, e-bike batteries resulted in four fires in a 24-hour period that injured several people, officials said.</p> <p>The FDNY recommends using only charging cords issued by the manufacturer and disconnect the battery immediately if it overheats and to keep them away from flammable items.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/10 Gas prices hit new all-time high</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/gas-prices-hit-new-all-time-high">https://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/gas-prices-hit-new-all-time-high</a> <a href="https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/10/economy/gas-prices-inflation/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/10/economy/gas-prices-inflation/index.html</a>

[Gas prices](#) hit a new all-time high on May 10, 2022, amid rising inflation and President Biden's restrictions on oil and gas production.

According to AAA's average [gas price calculator](#), the national average cost of a regular gallon of gasoline hit \$4.374 on Tuesday, the highest ever according to AAA.

The prices come as the European Union [edges toward](#) oil sanctions on Russia amid the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine. It also comes amid record-high inflation, with the consumer price index reaching [8.5% in March](#).

The White House has blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for the record-high gas prices in the U.S., even coining the surge as the "#PutinPriceHike" and vowing that President Biden will do everything he can to shield Americans from "pain at the pump."

Biden, last month, announced that the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) will allow the sale of E15 gasoline – gasoline that uses a 15% ethanol blend – across the country this summer. Biden has also moved to release 1 million barrels of oil per day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the next 6 months. The president is also calling on Congress to make companies pay fees on idled oil wells and non-producing acres of federal lands, aiming to incentivize new production.

Critics claim that Biden's energy policies – restricting drilling on federal lands and blocking the completion of the Keystone XL pipeline – have created a "[supply problem](#)" in the market. Biden initially announced a moratorium on drilling on federal lands, but a federal judge in Louisiana blocked the moratorium after 13 Republican attorneys general sued.

According to Yardeni Research, increased oil costs suggest the average American household will pay almost \$2,000 more for gasoline in 2022, according to a [March research note](#).

"In addition, we estimate that the average household is currently spending at least \$1,000 [according to a seasonally adjusted annual rate] more on food as a result of rapidly rising grocery prices," Edward Yardeni, the president of the firm, wrote on LinkedIn. "That's \$3,000 less money that households have to spend on other consumer goods and services, which also are experiencing rapid price increases."

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New York (CNN Business) In another blow to the US economy, prices at the pump soared to fresh record highs.

The national average price for regular gasoline climbed more than four cents on Tuesday to \$4.37 a gallon, according to AAA. That takes out the prior record of \$4.33 set on March 11.

The gas spike — prices are up 17 cents in the past week alone — will only add to inflationary pressures that have raised recession fears, rocked financial markets and soured Americans' views on the economy.

The national average dipped to as low as \$4.07 a gallon in April after the record-setting release of oil from emergency reserves and as oil prices cooled off. But as industry analysts predicted at the time, that relief proved to be short-lived and minor.

Pump prices are up about 25% since Russia's invasion of Ukraine set off shockwaves in global energy markets.

Real gas prices, adjusted for inflation, would need to climb above \$5.30 a gallon to break the records set in 2008, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Still, the latest spike in gas prices will only make today's inflation problems worse, and for the most part won't be captured in Wednesday's closely watched inflation report.

	<p>Some analysts fear even higher prices are coming. Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates, told CNN on Sunday he expects retail prices will jump to \$4.50 a gallon in the next week to 10 days.</p> <p>Gas prices move with a lag to oil, and the good news is that oil prices fell sharply Monday, perhaps taking some pressure off pump prices.</p> <p>US oil tumbled 6% to \$103.09 a barrel on Monday, its worst day since late March.</p> <p>Beyond concerns about China's Covid lockdowns, analysts said oil dropped because it got swept up in the gloom-and-doom on Wall Street as stocks dropped. Crude prices were just slightly lower Tuesday morning.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Heat wave India, Pakistan kills dozens</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/india-heat-wave-pakistan-climate-change-snapshot/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/india-heat-wave-pakistan-climate-change-snapshot/</a>
GIST	<p><i>New Delhi</i> — Hundreds of millions of people in large parts of India and Pakistan have been exposed to a deadly heat wave for nearly two months. The high temperatures began scorching the two countries in mid-March, much earlier than the usual peak summer month of June, breaking records and catching people and governments unprepared.</p> <p>At least 25 people have been killed in India, and more than 65 deaths have been reported in Pakistan, but the true numbers are expected to be higher.</p> <p>Northwest and central India faced its hottest April in 122 years with temperatures crossing 100 degrees Fahrenheit in most parts. India's capital of New Delhi saw temperatures topping 110 F for several days last month. In Pakistan, temperatures in Jacobabad and Nawabshah touched 120 F at the end of April.</p> <p>The Indian subcontinent faces heat waves every summer, but this year's has been different — not for the record-breaking temperatures though, experts say.</p> <p>"It's unique for three reasons: It arrived very early, covered a massive area in the two countries and stayed on for long duration ... this is very unusual," Vimal Mishra, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, told CBS News.</p> <p>The nights in many parts of the two countries have not come as a relief either as the low temperatures have not dipped below 86 F. Experts say this can prove deadly as the body gets no time to recover from daytime heat.</p> <p>The scorching temperatures have forced some local governments in the two countries to close schools and advise people to stay indoors. But for many millions of farmers, construction workers, day laborers and street hawkers who work outdoors and live from hand to mouth, staying indoors is a luxury they can't afford.</p> <p>The heat wave is also <a href="#">expected</a> to affect the wheat crop in India, the world's second-biggest producer. The country has seen record harvests in the last five years.</p> <p>The demand for electricity has soared, leading to a coal shortage for power plants and subsequent outages for several hours a day in many parts of the country. The country has canceled hundreds of passenger trains to make way for more cargo trains to transport coal to the plants as stocks ran low.</p> <p>Nearly 70% of India's electricity comes from coal-fired thermal power plants. Though the country has made significant strides toward clean energy, quitting coal is going to take a long time.</p> <p><b>Heat waves affected by climate change</b></p>

	<p>A recent scientific <a href="#">report</a> published in February said human activity caused heat waves in India to happen more often and to be more intense during the 20th century.</p> <p>"There is no doubt that <a href="#">climate change</a> is playing a role here ... although we will have to look at other factors too," said Mishra, the climate scientist.</p> <p>Experts say India and Pakistan will see more severe heat waves in the next few decades unless more rigorous steps are taken to stop climate change globally.</p> <p>"This is just a snapshot of what we will see in the next 20 to 30 years," Mishra told CBS News.</p> <p>"There is no doubt that in future the heat waves will occur more often, last longer and cover larger parts of the subcontinent ... affecting water availability, agriculture, businesses and energy demand," he said.</p> <p>According to an Indian government report by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the average frequency of summer heat waves will increase to about 2.5 events per season by the mid-21st century with a further rise to about 3 events by the end of the century. The average duration of heat waves is also expected to increase to 18 days per season toward the end of the century.</p> <p>The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted a similar scenario for India. Consulting company McKinsey &amp; Company estimates that by the end of the decade, the country could lose \$250 billion or 4.5% of its gross domestic product to work hours lost to heat waves.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 US suspends tariffs Ukraine steel imports</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-us-suspends-steel-tariffs/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-us-suspends-steel-tariffs/</a>
GIST	<p><i>Washington</i> — Following in Europe's footsteps, the U.S. is suspending its 25% tariffs on Ukrainian steel imports, the Commerce Department announced Monday. The suspension will last for one year.</p> <p>The move, while it may be partly symbolic for now, is the latest effort to bolster Ukraine's economy amid Russian President Vladimir Putin's assault on the country. Steel is a key sector of Ukraine's economy, representing 18% of the country's total exports in 2018, according to a <a href="#">2019 report</a> from the Commerce Department.</p> <p>At the end of April, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said there was an "ongoing consideration and process of reviewing a range of steps" the administration can take to provide relief to Ukrainians, including a review of tariffs. The European Union <a href="#">said</a> last month that it was suspending all tariffs on Ukrainian imports for one year.</p> <p>"Steelworkers are among the world's most resilient — whether they live in Youngstown or Mariupol," said Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. "We can't just admire the fortitude and spirit of the Ukrainian people — we need to have their backs and support one of the most important industries to Ukraine's economic well-being. For steel mills to continue as an economic lifeline for the people of Ukraine, they must be able to export their steel. Today's announcement is a signal to the Ukrainian people that we are committed to helping them thrive in the face of Putin's aggression, and that their work will create a stronger Ukraine, both today and in the future."</p> <p>The tariffs were <a href="#">imposed by then-President Donald Trump</a> in 2018, citing national security, with a 25% tariff on foreign steel imports and 10% on foreign aluminum imports. The ex-president imposed the tariffs over the objections of many experts, claiming other countries were undermining the U.S. steel and aluminum industries.</p> <p>Some lawmakers in Congress have urged the Biden administration to lift the tariffs to support Ukraine's economy.</p>



	<p>"We respectfully request that you remove the 25 percent U.S. tariff on steel imports from Ukraine to help it eventually stabilize and rebuild its economy," Republican Sen. Pat Toomey and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein wrote in a <a href="#">letter</a> to the president last month. "The United States should do everything it can to ensure that the Ukrainian people can effectively rebuild after the war. Lifting the U.S. tariff on steel from Ukraine is a small but meaningful way for the U.S. to signal support for Ukraine and to provide stability and improve the country's long-term economic outlook."</p> <p>A key target of Russia's war on Ukraine in recent weeks has been a <a href="#">steel plant in the city of Mariupol</a>, one of the largest such facilities in Europe. It encompasses furnaces, warehouses and tunnels. Ukraine has been <a href="#">evacuating</a> women and children from the site, although Ukrainian troops remain secluded in the facility's vast underground network of tunnels.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Kremlin elitists admit Russia military dismal</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/russian-state-television-admits-vladimir-putins-army-has-been-totally-embarrassing-in-ukraine-war?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/russian-state-television-admits-vladimir-putins-army-has-been-totally-embarrassing-in-ukraine-war?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>In his speech preceding the <a href="#">Victory Day celebrations across Russia</a> on Sunday, <a href="#">President Vladimir Putin</a> continued to promote the idea that his troops in Ukraine are fighting "to liberate their native land from the Nazi filth with confidence that, as in 1945, victory will be ours." His portrayal of <a href="#">Ukrainians as Nazis</a> rings so hollow that propagandists on state television have been struggling to justify the so-called "special military operation." The description itself was meant to portray a nearly painless blitzkrieg, akin to the annexation of Crimea. Instead, it has turned into an ongoing bloody massacre and a slew of crippling sanctions.</p> <p>Russia was so unprepared for this turn of events, both militarily and economically, that even the most <a href="#">pro-Kremlin propagandists</a> have been forced to acknowledge the grim reality of a pariah state fighting a war of aggression.</p> <p>During Friday's broadcast of state TV show <i>The Evening With Vladimir Solovyov</i>, military analyst Konstantin Sivkov <a href="#">argued</a> that Russia's "current economic market system is unfit to meet the needs of our Armed Forces and of the entire country under these conditions." Instead, he pushed for what he described as "military socialism," a set of wartime rules and regulations that would move all strategic resources—including land and factories—under the direct control of the government to better fund the war.</p> <p>During the same show, host Vladimir Solovyov griped that Russia couldn't compete with Ukraine's seemingly endless supply of Turkish-made Bayraktar drones, which have been wreaking havoc on Russia's troops and equipment. "They tell us from the frontlines: 'Give us drones!' People are crowdfunding crazy amounts of money. They bought up everything that was available in stores. Why can't that junk be mass-produced in Russia?" Solovyov <a href="#">fumed</a>.</p> <p>State Duma member Semyon Bagdasarov chimed in: "Everyone is ashamed to talk about this topic. Volunteers, like our mutual acquaintances... are buying it all and transporting it over there. It's a crying shame!" Solovyov proceeded to angrily complain about the restrictions that complicate the delivery of such items to Russian troops in Ukraine, adding: "It's easier to bring it in through the Ukrainian Customs in Lviv. They let in any weapons."</p> <p>Bagdasarov then resorted to <a href="#">blaming</a> the West for the Kremlin's humiliations, claiming that recent sanctions were designed to provoke a popular uprising, akin to the October revolution of 1917 or the 1991 Soviet coup d'état attempt, also known as the August Coup. To prevent the potential riots, Bagdasarov suggested the need for "purges" of current "management officials." He claimed that Russia is in sore need for a figure like Lavrentiy Beria—chief of the Soviet secret police who was notorious for his serial rapes and bloody mass executions.</p>

This attempts to whitewash odious figures of the past on Russian airwaves if nothing new.. Shortly before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, host of *Vesti Nedeli* Dmitry Kiselyov [praised](#) the likes of Joseph Stalin, Lavrentiy Beria, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, among others for Russia's nuclear capabilities.

During Friday's live broadcast of *60 Minutes*, retired Colonel Mikhail Khodaryonok [made the stunning confession](#) that even mass mobilization in Russia wouldn't help alter the course of Putin's stalled invasion of Ukraine. He admitted that Russia would be hard-pressed to replenish its mounting losses in Ukraine, and that sending masses to fight with outdated weapons would be counterproductive because Russia's arsenal does not measure up to NATO's top-notch weaponry.

"Let's imagine the drumroll, the sound of fanfare, and the mobilization is declared. How soon under this mobilization will we get the first fighter aviation regiment? We would get it by New Year's. We don't have the reserves, the pilots, or the planes so the mobilization would be of little help," Khodaryonok said. "If tonight, we order new ships to be built, how soon will we get the first one? In two years! That's the deal with mobilization. If we set a goal of forming a new tank division, when would it be ready? I would say in at least 90 days. And it wouldn't be equipped with modern weaponry because we don't have modern weapons and equipment in our reserves."

The retired colonel continued: "Sending people armed with weapons of yesteryear into a war of the 21st century to fight against global standard NATO weapons would not be the right thing to do. We need to replenish our losses, of course, but this should be done through industrial enterprises. Mobilization would not solve these issues."

In December of 2021, appearing on *60 Minutes*, Khodaryonok flippantly said that Russia could destroy Ukraine in 11 minutes, but in the beginning of February—when Putin's invasion seemed all but imminent—the colonel was much more clear-eyed. His sobering predictions, [published](#) in the newspaper *Independent Military Observer*, were remarkably accurate.

Khodaryonok contradicted many popular analysts, stating in part that "To assert that no one in Ukraine will defend the regime means, in practice, complete ignorance of the military-political situation and the mood of the broad masses of people in the neighboring state. Moreover, the degree of hatred (which, as you know, is the most effective fuel for armed struggle) in the neighboring republic in relation to Moscow is frankly underestimated. No one will meet the Russian army with bread, salt and flowers in Ukraine."

Khodaryonok correctly predicted long and difficult battles, in addition to the extensive assistance the West would provide to Ukraine, writing in part: "There is no doubt that the United States and the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance will begin a kind of reincarnation of Lend-Lease, modeled after the Second World War."

While open opposition to Putin's war against Ukraine is outlawed, it's clear that the Russian people are resisting in various unconventional ways. A series of fires have [erupted](#) at several military enlistment offices in recent days, as rumors of the impending mobilization unsettle potential conscripts.

Putin's propagandists have apparently been enlisted to convince the public that the outcome of Russia's invasion is a matter of life and death for all of its citizens. State TV pundit Karen Shakhnazarov, who previously [pleaded](#) with Putin to end the war as soon as possible, returned to national broadcasts after a temporary absence with a drastically different narrative last week.

During three separate broadcasts of *The Evening With Vladimir Solovyov*, Shakhnazarov claimed that Russians would find "no mercy" from their adversaries should the country lose the war. He threatened opponents of Putin's invasion, predicting they would face a future of "concentration camps, re-education and mandatory sterilization" imposed as a "final solution" for the Russian people sought by Moscow's enemies. While some Kremlin propagandists begrudgingly admit that Russia can't afford to fight this war, the prevailing narrative force-fed by the state media is that Russia can't afford to lose.

HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Shanghai tightens rules despite cases drop</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/shanghai-disinfects-homes-closes-subways-covid-fight-84610942">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/shanghai-disinfects-homes-closes-subways-covid-fight-84610942</a>
GIST	<p>BEIJING -- Teams in white protective suits are entering the homes of coronavirus-infected people to spray disinfectant as Shanghai tries to root out an omicron outbreak under China's strict "zero-COVID" strategy.</p> <p>City official Jin Chen said Tuesday that in older communities with shared bathrooms and kitchens, the homes of anyone else who uses those facilities will also be disinfected. He tried to address public concern about damage to clothing and valuables, saying residents can inform the teams about anything that needs protection.</p> <p>Shanghai also suspended service on the last two subway lines that were still operating Tuesday, marking the first time the city's entire system has been shut down, according to The Paper, an online media outlet.</p> <p>The latest measures come as Shanghai has ordered people in some districts to stay in their homes again after letting some out for limited shopping in recent weeks. The latest steps have further frustrated residents, who were hoping a more than monthlong lockdown was finally easing as the number of new cases in the city falls.</p> <p>Most of the city of 25 million people appear confined to their apartments or residential complexes, though there has been some easing in outlying suburban areas without new cases in their communities. AP video shot Monday showed a silent and deserted city, with only a very occasional vehicle and a few food delivery drivers on scooters moving down empty roads.</p> <p>The daily number of new cases in Shanghai fell to about 3,000 on Monday, down from a peak of 26,000 in mid-April. Authorities have kept most of the city bottled up as they try to stop the spread of the virus, even as many other parts of the world are loosening restrictions and trying to live with it. Six more COVID-related deaths were reported in China's largest city, raising the toll from the outbreak to 553.</p> <p>Beijing, the capital, began another round of three days of mass testing for millions of its residents Tuesday in a bid to prevent an outbreak from growing to Shanghai proportions. The city, which recorded 74 new cases on Monday, has locked down individual buildings and residential compounds, shut about 60 subway stations and banned dining at restaurants, allowing only takeout and delivery.</p> <p>Shanghai initially ordered mass testing along with a limited lockdown, but extended that as case numbers rose. Thousands of residents have been forced into centralized quarantine centers after testing positive or having been in contact with an infected person.</p> <p>Notices issued in several districts in recent days said residents were ordered to stay home and barred from receiving nonessential deliveries as part of a "quiet period" lasting at least until Wednesday. The measures could be extended depending on the results of mass testing, the notices said. The sudden tightening, after some initial opening up, took residents by surprise.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Millions infected during Covid surge in fall?</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/100-million-americans-infected-covid-surge-fall/story?id=84590524">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/100-million-americans-infected-covid-surge-fall/story?id=84590524</a>
GIST	<p>The Biden administration's stark warning last week that as many as 100 million Americans could be infected during a COVID-19 wave in the fall and winter came as a shock to many in the country.</p> <p>After all, 70.5% of the eligible U.S. population aged 5 and older are fully vaccinated and 47.8% of those aged 12 and older are boosted, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>What's more, a recent CDC analysis estimated at least three out of every five Americans have antibodies that indicate being previously infected with COVID-19, meaning most people in the U.S. have natural immunity.</p>

So with such high levels of protection, why would up to 30% of the population be infected during a potential new wave?

Scientists and public health experts said the 100 million estimate -- based on mathematical models -- does not surprise them and that as immunity wanes and people move indoors due to cold weather, cases will inevitably rise.

"Certainly we're capable of sustaining 100 million infections this winter," Dr. Shira Doron, an infectious disease physician and hospital epidemiologist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, told ABC News. "The model doesn't mean that there will be 100 million cases, but there is the potential for a lot of infections. It doesn't mean everyone should panic."

Doron explained that even with the high rates of vaccination in the U.S., immunity diminishes over time and COVID-19's ability to mutate has helped it evade -- at least partially -- the protection offered by vaccines.

"Being vaccinated does protect you from serious illness, but it does not [fully] protect you from infection," she said.

She said when the vaccines first rolled out in the winter of 2020-21, they were based on the original strain of the virus. Because of this, they were protective against infection, severe disease and death.

However, as the virus mutated, those vaccines became less effective at preventing infection while still being highly effective at protecting against the most serious effects of the disease.

"These vaccines are great, but they're not perfect," Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, told ABC News. "They can't prevent widespread, mild infections. We haven't got a vaccine that could turn off COVID like a light switch."

This means it's possible for Americans who are fully vaccinated and boosted to test positive for COVID-19, but it's unlikely this group will get severely ill or die.

Another reason the U.S. could see such a high number of infections is because as temperatures drop, people will move indoors, which increases the risk of transmission.

"The weather will get colder, and we'll start to go indoors again, and we had increased transmission during the last winter season and we may have increases again on the basis of seasonality," Schaffner said.

The prediction comes as the Biden administration asks Congress for \$22.5 billion in funding for testing, vaccines and treatments.

If the funding is secured, a senior administration official told reporters Friday that the country will be better prepared to blunt the effects of the surge and keep hospitalization and death rates low.

If Congress rejects the funding, "the consequences of those 100 million being infected will be higher," Doron said.

Cuts to funding will decrease testing, leading to COVID-19 infections being spread undetected, and fewer treatments for those at high risk of severe disease, which could lead to hospitalization, she said.

Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious diseases specialist at the University of California, San Francisco, added this will also limit the number of people who access vaccines, treatments or tests.

	<p>"Some vulnerable folks who probably need additional doses will not get it if they have to pay out of pocket for a vaccine or not have it covered," he told ABC News. "When people are not sure if they will be saddled with a bill, they'll stay away from accessing care."</p> <p>The experts said the best way people can protect themselves ahead of a surge is to make sure they are up to date on their booster shots, whether they are eligible for one or two doses and to follow the advice of public health experts.</p> <p>"There may be a call to get another dose of vaccine or in specific locations, people may have to wear masks again," Schaffner said. "Please be open to this. ... Be prepared, keep listening and reading updates on the virus in your area."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 Covid-linked hospital admissions rising</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/hospital-admission-totals-tick-weeks-rising-covid-19/story?id=84599767">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/hospital-admission-totals-tick-weeks-rising-covid-19/story?id=84599767</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Following weeks of increasing infection rates, a growing number of Americans are heading into the hospital in need of care.</p> <p>On average, nearly 2,400 virus-positive Americans are being admitted to the hospital each day, up by 17% in the last week, according to federal data. Forty-one states and territories have reported increases of 10% or more in their daily number of COVID-19-related hospital admissions.</p> <p>In the U.S., there continues to be an uptick in the overall number of patients requiring care for COVID-19, with now about 19,100 patients hospitalized across the country. Overall, the total remains significantly lower than every other COVID-19 surge. In January, there were 160,000 patients hospitalized with the virus.</p> <p>The U.S. is reporting more than 68,000 new cases every day, up by 20% in the last week, and 52% in the last two weeks. The nation's daily case average has more than doubled in the last month.</p> <p>Over the last week, nearly every state in the country — 45 states and territories — have seen increases of 10% or more in their daily COVID-19 infection rates.</p> <p>Last week, counties across the Northeast moved into the "high" risk category for COVID-19 risk, after weeks of increasing cases and hospitalizations.</p> <p>The "high" community-level transmission suggests there is a "high potential for health care system strain" and a "high level of severe disease." Thus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people wear a mask in public indoor settings, including schools.</p> <p>As infection rates continue to increase across the country, some health experts are questioning how much higher totals are than initially reported.</p> <p>"We're probably missing a lot," David Dowdy, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, told ABC News last week. "I would not be surprised to find out that our confirmed case count is under-counting the total number of cases by a factor of two or three. I think it's quite possible that we're having right now, as many cases as we were during the, you know, the delta wave of August or September, certainly not what we had this past winter, but we probably are having a lot more cases than what's currently being reported."</p> <p>While some epidemiologists suggest that hospitalization data has become less reliable, as states stop reporting key metrics, health experts said they are more reliable than case numbers.</p>

	<p>“We see that the number of hospitalizations being reported has again increased by about 20 to 30% from the low back in April. So while we may not have a perfect read on those numbers, they are more reliable than the case counts,” Dowdy said.</p> <p>Despite increases in other metrics, the average of daily COVID-19-related deaths remains at a persistent plateau. The average currently stands at 340 fatalities a day. That is still much lower than during the omicron peak in early February, when the U.S. was reporting more than 2,600 deaths every day.</p> <p>The U.S. is also now less than 2,500 deaths away from hitting 1 million COVID-19 related deaths, putting the nation on track to reach the milestone in the next week.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Hong Kong leader: China patriots in charge</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-leader-china-patriots-now-firmly-charge-84587037">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/hong-kong-leader-china-patriots-now-firmly-charge-84587037</a>
GIST	<p>HONG KONG -- Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Monday that Chinese patriots are now firmly in charge of the city following the election of its new leader, who ran unopposed in a process controlled by Beijing.</p> <p>Lam’s comments came a day after a carefully vetted election committee voted overwhelmingly to approve John Lee, a hard-line security chief who oversaw a crackdown on Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement after massive protests turned violent in 2019.</p> <p>The protests led to the imposition by Beijing of a sweeping National Security Law and the reorganization of the city's legislature. Political opponents were subsequently jailed, dissenting voices silenced and the organized opposition quashed.</p> <p>Appearing with Lee, Lam said such changes were necessary to restore order and stability in the Asian financial hub.</p> <p>“I want to thank the central government again for taking resolute measures when Hong Kong faced unprecedented challenges,” said Lam, who is stepping down after a single five-year term as leader.</p> <p>“It formulated the National Security Law, which helped Hong Kong transform from chaos to order, and also improved Hong Kong’s electoral system so that we can achieve long-term peace and stability,” Lam said.</p> <p>Lee won more than 99% of the vote cast by the 1,500 members of the election committee.</p> <p>While China cited the need to restore order as the motivation for political change in Hong Kong, the demand that only patriots — defined as those loyal to the ruling Communist Party — could hold office was a central theme.</p> <p>The establishment of the political system of “patriots running Hong Kong” is vital for Hong Kong’s future, Lam said.</p> <p>The foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S. — called the selection process “part of a continued assault on political pluralism and fundamental freedoms.”</p> <p>“The current nomination process and resulting appointment ... further erode the ability of Hong Kongers to be legitimately represented. We are deeply concerned about this steady erosion of political and civil rights and Hong Kong’s autonomy,” they said in a joint statement.</p> <p>Lee will replace Lam on July 1 and take over a city that has in the past five years been through the tumultuous days of the 2019 pro-democracy protests, the ensuing crackdown and a recent coronavirus</p>



outbreak that overwhelmed Hong Kong's health care system and prompted Beijing to send in medics and build temporary quarantine facilities.

The handover of power will incorporate the formation of a new government, the continuation of epidemic control measures and preparations for the 25th anniversary celebration of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

Lee said he and Lam exchanged views on forming the new government during their Monday morning meeting, but gave no indication of any new direction for his administration.

Lee has said he wants to ensure Hong Kong's position as a center for financial deal-making while improving quality of life for the 7.4 million citizens of one of the world's most expensive cities. However, national security concerns are expected to trump all other issues, fueling speculation about a further deterioration of civil rights, free speech and the rule of law.

Lam said her government would "render all the necessary assistance and support" for the handover, ensuring Lee "will lead Hong Kong to a greater height in the next five years."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian fired back at criticism of the election from the European Union, whose foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said Lee's selection "violates democratic principles and political pluralism in Hong Kong." Borrell said the election furthered the dismantling of the "one country, two systems" principle under which Hong Kong was supposed to retain its own political, legal and economic system for 50 years after the end of British rule.

The election "shows that the new electoral system is a good system in line with the principle of 'one country, two systems' and the reality in Hong Kong, and reflects the mainstream public opinion and consensus of staying in solidarity and striving for prosperity of all walks of life in Hong Kong," Zhao said at a daily briefing. He spoke before the G-7 statement was issued.

"It is believed that the new chief executive will lead the new (Hong Kong) government and people to create a new prospect of good governance in Hong Kong," Zhao said.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Another Marcos as Philippine president?</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/marcos-jr-won-philippine-presidency-unofficial-count-shows-84606207">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/marcos-jr-won-philippine-presidency-unofficial-count-shows-84606207</a>
GIST	<p>MANILA, Philippines -- The namesake son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos appeared to have been elected Philippine president by a landslide in an astonishing reversal of the 1986 "People Power" pro-democracy revolt that booted his father into global infamy.</p> <p>Marcos Jr. had more than 30.8 million votes in the unofficial results with more than 97% of the votes tabulated as of Tuesday afternoon. His nearest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, a champion of human rights and reforms, had 14.7 million votes in Monday's election, and boxing great Manny Pacquiao appeared to have the third highest total with 3.5 million.</p> <p>His running mate, Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing leader and mayor of southern Davao city, had a formidable lead in the vice-presidential race, which is separate from the presidential race.</p> <p>The alliance of the scions of two authoritarian leaders combined the voting power of their families' political strongholds in the north and south but compounded worries of human rights activists.</p> <p>Dozens of anti-Marcos protesters rallied at the Commission on Elections, blaming the agency for the breakdown of vote-counting machines and other issues that prevented people from casting their votes. Elections officials said the impact of the malfunctioning machines was minimal.</p>

A group of activists, who suffered under the dictatorship said it was enraged by Marcos's apparent victory and would oppose it.

"A possible win based on a campaign built on blatant lies, historical distortions and mass deception is tantamount to cheating your way to victory," said the group Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law, or CARMMA. "This is not acceptable."

Etta Rosales, a former Commission on Human Rights chairwoman, who was twice arrested and tortured under martial law in the 1970s, said Marcos Jr.'s apparent victory drove her to tears but would not stop her from continuing efforts to hold the Marcoses to account.

"I'm just one among the many who were tortured; others were killed, I was raped. We suffered under the Marcos regime in the fight for justice and freedom and this happens," Rosales said.

Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte avoided volatile issues during their campaign and steadfastly stuck instead to a battle cry of national unity, even though their fathers' presidencies opened some of the most turbulent divisions in the country's history.

Marcos Jr. has not claimed victory but thanked his supporters in a late-night "address to the nation" video, where he urged them to stay vigilant until the vote count is completed.

"If we'll be fortunate, I'll expect that your help will not wane, your trust will not wane because we have a lot of things to do in the times ahead," he said.

Robredo has not conceded defeat but acknowledged the massive Marcos Jr. lead in the unofficial count. She told her supporters the fight for reforms and democracy won't end with the elections.

"The voice of the people is getting clearer and clearer," she said. "In the name of the Philippines, which I know you also love so dearly, we should hear this voice because in the end, we only have this one nation to share."

She asked her supporters to continue to stand up: "Press for the truth. It took long for the structure of lies to be erected. We have the time and opportunity now to fight and dismantle this."

The election winner will take office on June 30 for a single, six-year term as leader of a Southeast Asian nation hit hard by two years of COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns and long-troubled by crushing poverty, gaping inequalities, Muslim and communist insurgencies and deep political divisions.

The next president will also likely face demands to prosecute outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte for thousands of killings during his anti-drug crackdown — deaths already under investigation by the International Criminal Court.

On Tuesday, Human Rights Watch called for the apparent election winner Marcos Jr. to improve the human rights situation in the Philippines.

"He should declare an end to the 'war on drugs' that has resulted in the extrajudicial killing of thousands of Filipinos, and order the impartial investigation and appropriate prosecution of officials responsible for these unlawful killings," said Phil Robertson, the group's deputy director for Asia.

Marcos Jr., a 64-year-old former provincial governor, congressman and senator, held a wide lead in pre-election surveys. Robredo had tapped into shock and outrage over the prospect of a Marcos recapturing the seat of power and harnessed a network of campaign volunteers to underpin her candidacy.

After his ouster by the largely peaceful 1986 uprising, the elder Marcos died in 1989 while in exile in Hawaii without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he, his family and cronies amassed an estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion while he was in power. A Hawaii court later found him liable for

	<p>human rights violations and awarded \$2 billion from his estate to compensate more than 9,000 Filipinos who filed a lawsuit against him for torture, incarceration, extrajudicial killings and disappearances.</p> <p>His widow, Imelda Marcos, and their children were allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991 and worked on a stunning political comeback, helped by a well-funded social media campaign to refurbish the family name.</p> <p>Marcos Jr. has defended the legacy of his father and steadfastly refused to acknowledge and apologize for the massive human rights violations and plunder under his father's strongman rule.</p> <p>Officials said Monday's election was relatively peaceful despite pockets of violence in the country's volatile south that killed at least six people in the country's volatile south. Thousands of police and military personnel were deployed to secure election precincts, especially in rural regions with a history of violent political rivalries.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Victory Day: little to show for 11-week war</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-marks-victory-day-show-11-week-war-84608250">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-marks-victory-day-show-11-week-war-84608250</a>
GIST	<p>ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine -- With no major new battlefield successes to boast about, Russian President Vladimir Putin marked his country's biggest patriotic holiday without even uttering the word "Ukraine."</p> <p>The Russian leader oversaw a Victory Day parade Monday on Moscow's Red Square, watching as troops marched in formation and military hardware rolled past in a celebration of the Soviet Union's role in the 1945 defeat of Nazi Germany.</p> <p>Many Western analysts had expected Putin to use the holiday to trumpet some kind of victory in Ukraine or announce an escalation, but he did neither. Instead, he sought to justify the war again as a necessary response to what he portrayed as a hostile Ukraine.</p> <p>"The danger was rising by the day," Putin said. "Russia has given a preemptive response to aggression. It was forced, timely, and the only correct decision."</p> <p>With the conflict grinding through its 11th week, he steered clear of battlefield specifics, failing to mention the potentially pivotal battle for the vital southern port of Mariupol.</p> <p>Meanwhile, on the ground, intense fighting raged in Ukraine's east. In the south, the vital Black Sea port of Odesa came under repeated missile attack. And Russian forces sought to end the resistance of Ukrainian defenders making their last stand at a steel plant in Mariupol.</p> <p>One of the Ukrainian fighters holding out at the steel plant said they were still defending the city.</p> <p>Valeri Paditel, who heads the border guards in the Donetsk region, said the fighters were "doing everything to make those who defend the city in the future proud."</p> <p>Putin has long bristled at NATO's creep eastward into former Soviet republics. Ukraine and its Western allies have denied the country posed any threat.</p> <p>As he has done all along, Putin falsely portrayed the fighting as a battle against Nazism, thereby linking the war to what many Russians consider their finest hour: the triumph over Hitler. The Soviet Union lost 27 million people in what Russia refers to as the Great Patriotic War.</p> <p>After unexpectedly fierce resistance forced the Kremlin to abandon its effort to storm Kyiv over a month ago, Moscow's forces have concentrated on capturing the Donbas, Ukraine's eastern industrial region.</p>

But the fighting there has been a back-and-forth, village-by-village slog, and analysts had suggested Putin might use his holiday speech to present the Russian people with a victory amid discontent over the country's heavy casualties and the punishing effects of Western sanctions.

Others suggested he might declare the fighting a war, not just a “special military operation,” and order a nationwide mobilization, with a call-up of reserves, to replenish the depleted ranks for an extended conflict.

In the end, he gave no signal as to where the war is headed or how he might intend to salvage it. Specifically, he left unanswered the question of whether or how Russia will marshal more forces for a continuing war.

“Without concrete steps to build a new force, Russia can’t fight a long war, and the clock starts ticking on the failure of their army in Ukraine,” tweeted Phillips P. O’Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Nigel Gould Davies, former British ambassador to Belarus, said: “Russia has not won this war. It’s starting to lose it.”

He said that unless Russia has a major breakthrough, “the balance of advantages will shift steadily in favor of Ukraine, especially as Ukraine gets access to growing volumes of increasingly sophisticated Western military equipment.”

Despite Russia’s crackdown on dissent, antiwar sentiment has seeped through. Dozens of protesters were detained around the country on Victory Day, and editors at a pro-Kremlin media outlet revolted by briefly publishing a few dozen stories criticizing Putin and the invasion.

In Warsaw, antiwar protesters splattered Russia’s ambassador to Poland with what appeared to be red paint as he arrived at a cemetery to pay respects to Red Army soldiers who died during World War II.

As Putin laid a wreath in Moscow, air raid sirens echoed again in the Ukrainian capital. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared in his own Victory Day address that his country would eventually defeat the Russians.

“Very soon there will be two Victory Days in Ukraine,” he said in a video. He added: “We are fighting for freedom, for our children, and therefore we will win.”

A Zelenskyy adviser interpreted Putin’s speech as indicating that Russia has no interest in escalating the war through the use of nuclear weapons or direct engagement with NATO.

Speaking late Monday in an online interview, Oleksiy Arestovych pointed to Putin’s statement that Russia would honor the memory of those who fought in World War II by doing “everything so that the horror of a global war does not happen again.”

Instead, he predicted Russia would make “a sluggish attempt” to take control of the Donbas, including Mariupol, and a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin seized from Ukraine in 2014.

Arestovych said Russia would drag out the war while bleeding the Ukrainian economy with the aim of getting Ukraine to agree to give up that territory.

In Washington, President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan measure to reboot the World War II-era “lend-lease” program, which helped defeat Nazi Germany, to bolster Kyiv and Eastern European allies.

Russia has about 97 battalion tactical groups in Ukraine, largely in the east and the south, a slight increase over last week, according to a senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon’s assessment. Each unit has roughly 1,000 troops, according to the Pentagon.

	<p>The official said that overall, the Russian effort in the Donbas hasn't achieved any significant progress in recent days and continues to face stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces.</p> <p>Russia is perhaps closest to a victory in Mariupol. The U.S. official said roughly 2,000 Russian forces were around Mariupol, and the city was being pounded by airstrikes. As many as 2,000 Ukrainian defenders were believed to be holding out at the steel plant, the city's last stronghold of resistance.</p> <p>The fall of Mariupol would deprive Ukraine of a vital port, free up troops to fight elsewhere in the Donbas and give the Kremlin a badly needed success.</p> <p>Odesa, too, has increasingly been bombarded in recent days. The Ukrainian military said Russian forces fired seven missiles from the air at Odesa on Monday night, hitting a shopping center and a warehouse. One person was killed and five were wounded, the military said.</p> <p>The war in the country long known as the "breadbasket of Europe" has disrupted global food supplies.</p> <p>"I saw silos full of grain, wheat and corn ready for export," Charles Michel, president of the European Council, lamented in a tweet after a visit to Odesa. The badly needed food is stranded because of the war and the blockade of Black Sea ports, he said, causing "dramatic consequences for vulnerable countries."</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 China releases Taiwan human rights activist</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/taiwan-activist-released-china-global-worked-84610233">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/taiwan-activist-released-china-global-worked-84610233</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>TAIPEI, Taiwan -- A Taiwanese human rights activist who served five years in jail in China said that international pressure and the tireless advocacy by his wife worked to ensure his safe return to Taiwan.</p> <p>"I know that my life's safety and security was defended by many people, thanks to everyone, I have never felt abandoned or alone," Lee Ming-che said at a press conference Tuesday in his first public appearance since being released from prison.</p> <p>Lee Ming-che was arrested by Chinese authorities in 2017 and charged with subversion of state power. His arrest was China's first criminal prosecution of a nonprofit worker since Beijing passed a law tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organizations in 2016.</p> <p>His arrest marked a turning point as China showed that it would not hesitate to prosecute Taiwanese individuals for political activism, regardless of the harm it would bring to cross-Straits relations. It also raised public awareness in Taiwan of the tangible consequences of China's authoritarian rule on individuals as relations between Taiwan and China worsened with the election of President Tsai Ing-wen.</p> <p>China claims Taiwan is a part of its national territory and has not ruled out force to bring the island under its rule. Taiwan is, in practice, self-ruled.</p> <p>Lee had given online lectures on Taiwan's democratization and managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China that some friends had set up.</p> <p>"I did what I could do, using my credit card to buy some books," he said, which he would send to friends in China. He would also give donations to the families of political prisoners. "This is not to interfere with the country's internal affairs. All of this was simply a way of humanitarian caring."</p> <p>Lee is the son of parents who were both born in China and had come to Taiwan with the ruling Nationalist Party. He had always thought of himself as a Chinese person growing up. That changed in high school with a history teacher who taught the students to learn about local history.</p>

Instead of focusing on the Yangtze or the Yellow River, the two major rivers in China, the history teacher showed them documentaries about Taiwanese local history. Lee said he learned to appreciate what was around him.

That message was hammered in during his time in China, where he realized that he was a foreigner. Lee now identifies himself as Taiwanese, saying that his ethnic identity, as a Chinese person, is separate from his national, political identity as a person born in Taiwan.

“Real revolution, as evidenced by history, must come from the land itself,” Lee said. “I know that how China democratizes and comes to value human rights, that’s the Chinese people’s responsibility and work.”

While Lee was able to come home, another prisoner, Lee Meng-chu, remains trapped in China. Lee Meng-chu has been accused of being a spy by Chinese authorities and is now serving the two years as part of his sentence which deprived him of “political rights.”

Meng-chu had been in Hong Kong in 2019, during the massive anti-government protests that rocked the city, according to the semi-official Central News Agency. He disappeared after crossing the border into Shenzhen.

It’s uncertain how many Taiwanese are being held in Chinese prisons, as many families have chosen to remain quiet in the hopes of getting their loved ones’ release.

This stands in contrast with Lee, the human rights activist's case. In the last five years, Lee’s wife, Ching-yu worked with local nonprofit organizations to raise awareness about her husband’s case. She also sought help from foreign democratic governments from the United States to the United Kingdom. Lee gave interviews in the press about whether she could send letters to her husband while in jail and how his health was.

That continued effort, both said, paid off.

“International support can truly have a concrete change on the treatment of a political prisoner in China,” said Lee Ching-yu.

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HEADLINE	05/09 SKorea new president outreach to North
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yon-faces-tough-challenges-south-korean-president-84587966">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yon-faces-tough-challenges-south-korean-president-84587966</a>
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea -- Yoon Suk Yeol, a conservative political neophyte, took office as South Korea’s new president Tuesday with a vow to pursue a negotiated settlement of North Korea’s threatening nuclear program and an offer of “an audacious plan” to improve Pyongyang’s economy if it abandons its nuclear weapons.</p> <p>Yoon had promised a tougher stance on North Korea during his campaign but avoided tough words during his inaugural speech amid growing worries that the North is preparing for its first nuclear bomb test in nearly five years. North Korea has rejected similar past overtures by some of Yoon's predecessors that link incentives to progress in its denuclearization.</p> <p>“While North Korea’s nuclear weapon programs are a threat, not only to our security but also to Northeast Asia, the door to dialogue will remain open so that we can peacefully resolve this threat,” Yoon told a crowd gathered outside parliament in Seoul.</p> <p>“If North Korea genuinely embarks on a process to complete denuclearization, we are prepared to work with the international community to present an audacious plan that will vastly strengthen North Korea’s economy and improve the quality of life for its people,” he said.</p>

Yoon also addressed South Korea's growing economic problems, saying decaying job markets and a widening rich-poor gap are brewing a democratic crisis by stoking "internal strife and discord" and fueling a spread of "anti-intellectualism" as people lose their sense of community and belonging.

He said he would spur economic growth to heal the deep political divide and income inequalities.

North Korea's advancing nuclear program is a vexing security challenge for Yoon, who won the March 9 election on a promise to strengthen South Korea's 70-year military alliance with the United States and build up its own missile capability to neutralize North Korean threats.

In recent months, North Korea has test-launched a spate of nuclear-capable missiles that could target South Korea, Japan and the mainland United States. Pyongyang appears to be trying to rattle Yoon's government while modernizing its weapons arsenals and pressuring the Biden administration into relaxing sanctions on it. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently warned that his nuclear weapons won't be confined to their primary mission of deterring war if his national interests are threatened.

In a policy briefing earlier Tuesday, South Korea's military chief Won In-Choul told Yoon in a video conference that North Korea is ready to conduct a nuclear test if Kim decides to do so. Yoon then ordered military commanders to maintain firm readiness, saying that "the security situation on the Korean Peninsula is very grave."

Other issues in the tough mix of foreign policy and domestic challenges facing Yoon are a U.S.-China rivalry and strained ties with Japan over history and trade disputes. South Korea is also bracing for the fallout of Russia's war on Ukraine in global energy markets.

Chung Jin-young, a professor at Kyung Hee University, said South Korea must accept that it cannot force North Korea to denuclearize or ease the U.S.-China standoff. He said South Korea must instead focus on strengthening its defense capability and the U.S. alliance to "make North Korea never dare to think about a nuclear attack on us." He said South Korea must also prevent ties with Beijing from worsening.

Yoon didn't mention Japan during his speech. During his campaign, Yoon repeatedly accused his liberal predecessor Moon Jae-in of exploiting Japan for domestic politics and stressed Tokyo's strategic importance. But some experts say Yoon could end up in the same policy rut as Moon, considering the countries' deep disagreements over sensitive history issues such as Tokyo's wartime mobilization of Korean laborers and sex slaves.

Some of Yoon's major domestic policies may face an impasse in parliament, which will remain controlled by liberal lawmakers ahead of general elections in 2024. Yoon must also rebuild South Korea's pandemic response, shaken by a massive omicron surge in recent months.

He's also been denied a honeymoon period. Surveys show less than 60% of respondents expect he will do well in his presidency, an unusually low figure compared to his predecessors, who mostly received about 80%-90% before they entered office. His approval rating as a president-elect was 41%, according to a survey by Gallup Korea released last week that put then President Moon's rating at 45%.

Yoon's low popularity is blamed in part on an acute divide between conservatives and liberals and on contentious policies and Cabinet picks. Some experts say Yoon also hasn't shown a clear vision for how to navigate South Korea past the foreign policy and domestic challenges.

Yoon won the election by a historically narrow margin after largely catering to public frustration over Moon's setbacks in economic policies, which were criticized for letting house prices and personal debt soar out of control and failing to create enough jobs. Yoon focused much of his message on young males who resented the loss of traditional privileges in a hyper-competitive job market and their dimmed prospects for marriage and parenthood, although his campaign was criticized for ignoring the plight of women.



“The challenges that Yoon has at the start of his presidency are the toughest and the most unfavorable ones” among South Korean presidents elected since the late 1980s, a period viewed as the start of the country’s genuine democracy after decades of dictatorship, said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

In recent weeks, Yoon has invited criticism — even from some of his conservative supporters — by moving his offices from the mountainside Blue House presidential palace. Yoon said moving to the capital’s center is meant to better communicate with the public, but critics question why he has made it a priority when he has so many other urgent issues to tackle.

Yoon, 61, was prosecutor-general for Moon before he resigned and joined the main conservative opposition party last year following internal feuding with Moon’s political allies.

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## Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	05/10 Russia hack on satellite internet modems
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-behind-cyberattack-against-satellite-internet-modems-ukraine-eu-2022-05-10/">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-behind-cyberattack-against-satellite-internet-modems-ukraine-eu-2022-05-10/</a>
GIST	<p>May 10 (Reuters) - Russia was behind a massive cyberattack against a satellite internet network which took thousands of modems offline at the onset of the war in Ukraine, Britain and the European Union said on Tuesday.</p> <p>The digital assault against Viasat's (<a href="#">VSAT.O</a>) KA-SAT network in late February took place just as Russian armour pushed into Ukraine and helped facilitate President Vladimir Putin's invasion of the country, the Council of the EU said in a statement.</p> <p>"This cyberattack had a significant impact causing indiscriminate communication outages and disruptions across several public authorities, businesses and users in Ukraine, as well as affecting several EU Member States," the statement said.</p> <p>"This unacceptable cyberattack is yet another example of Russia's continued pattern of irresponsible behaviour in cyberspace, which also formed an integral part of its illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine," it added.</p> <p>The remote sabotage caused a "huge loss in communications in the very beginning of war," Ukrainian cybersecurity official Victor Zhora said in March.</p> <p>Russia routinely denies it carries out offensive cyber operations. The Kremlin did not immediately respond to a request from Reuters for comment.</p> <p>Western intelligence agencies, including the U.S. National Security Agency, French government cybersecurity organisation ANSSI, and Ukrainian intelligence were investigating Russia's potential role in the attack in the days after it, Reuters reported at the time.</p> <p>A British Foreign Office statement quoted Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as saying the cyberattack was a "deliberate and malicious attack by Russia against Ukraine".</p> <p>Russia's primary target in the attack was the Ukrainian military, but it also disrupted wind farms and internet users in central Europe, the statement said, citing Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).</p>
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HEADLINE	05/10 Spain fires intel chief in hacking scandal
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-europe-spain-hacking-22817838e268fe3abf74b241add9cefc">https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-europe-spain-hacking-22817838e268fe3abf74b241add9cefc</a>
GIST	<p>BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spain’s government fired the director of the country’s top intelligence agency Tuesday following the hacking of politicians’ cellphones, including the devices of the prime minister and several supporters of the Catalonia region’s secession.</p> <p>The National Intelligence Center, or CNI, has been under fire for its role in spying on Catalan separatists and for taking a full year to discover that the handsets of the prime minister and leading defense and security officials were infiltrated, possibly by a foreign power.</p> <p>Defense Minister Margarita Robles, who was among the hacking targets, announced after Cabinet meeting that Paz Esteban would be relieved as CNI director.</p> <p>“That (the hacks of government phones) took a year to discover, well, it is clear there are things that we need to improve,” Robles said. “We are going to try to ensure that these attacks don’t happen again, even though there is no way to be completely safe.”</p> <p>Esteban’s replacement will be Esperanza Casteleiro, “a woman who has worked for almost 40 years” at the intelligence agency, Robles said. Casteleiro most recently served as secretary of defense, Robles No. 2, since 2020.</p> <p>Esteban acknowledged during a closed-door parliamentary committee hearing last week that with judicial permission, her agency had hacked the phones of several Catalan separatists.</p> <p>In a separate case, the government recently revealed that an “external” power infected the cellphones of Robles and of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez with the Pegasus spyware last year.</p> <p>The phone of Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska, the head of Spain’s police and border control agencies, also was infected with the spyware at the same time as the defense minister’s phone.</p> <p>Spain’s government has refused to speculate publicly on who could have pried into the phones. The attacks on the phones of Sánchez and two of his ministers took place in May and June 2021, coinciding with a diplomatic rift between Morocco and Spain.</p> <p>Sánchez’s minority left-wing coalition has often had to rely on votes Parliament from Catalan separatist parties, which have threatened to withdraw their support if the government does not accept responsibility for the hacking.</p> <p>The leader of Spain’s opposition conservatives, Popular Party president Alberto Núñez Feijóo slammed the decision to remove Esteban. He said the government had sacrificed her to the Catalan separatists.</p> <p>“It is a monstrosity that Sánchez offers the head of the CNI director to the separatists, once again weakening the state to assure his survival,” Popular Party President Alberto Núñez Feijóo wrote on Twitter.</p> <p>Esteban, 64, became the first woman to head the CNI in July 2019, initially on an interim basis. Her appointment was made permanent in February 2020.</p> <p>The previous CNI director had received criticism for failing in 2017 to stop preparations by Catalan separatists to hold an independence referendum that had been deemed illegal by Spain’s top courts.</p> <p>The alleged phone hacks of more than 60 Catalan politicians, lawyers and activists was denounced last month in a report by the Canada-based digital rights group Citizen Lab.</p>

The list of phones that were allegedly infected by Pegasus spyware, which the Israeli company NSO says it only sells to government agencies, includes the current regional head of Catalonia. The Citizen Lab report said the hacks started in late 2019, with Esteban in charge of the CNI.

Robles has defended the targeting of Catalan politicians for their involvement in a separatist plot that tried and failed to separate Catalonia from the rest of Spain five years ago.

Gabriel Rufián, the parliamentary spokesman for the Catalan party ERC, said that dismissal of Esteban was not about appeasing the separatists. He noted that the CNI has also been accused of neglecting the tech security of top government officials.

“It seems logical, with all my respects to Esteban, that in a country that admits that the phones of the prime minister and defense minister have been illegally spied upon, for the head of the CNI to assume the responsibility,” Rufián said.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Low-rent RAT worries researchers</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://threatpost.com/low-rent-rat-worries-researchers/179553/">https://threatpost.com/low-rent-rat-worries-researchers/179553/</a>
GIST	<p>For about the price of a cup of Starbucks latte, a hacker is renting out a remote access trojan designed to backdoor targeted networks.</p> <p>Dubbed as Dark Crystal RAT (or DCRat), the malware is being peddled online to hackers in Russian by a lone rookie malware writer with a penchant for cut-rate pricing.</p> <p>“DCRat is one of the cheapest commercial RATs we’ve ever come across. The price for this backdoor starts at (\$6) for a two-month subscription, and occasionally dips even lower during special promotions,” according to BlackBerry researchers <a href="#">who published their findings on Monday</a>.</p> <p>BlackBerry said sales of the budget RAT are being facilitated by the cybercriminal that goes by the name “boldenis44” or “crystalcoder.”</p> <p>Capabilities of the RAT include a “stealer/client executable”, a single PHP page, which serves as the command-and-control endpoint and an administrator tool.</p> <p><b>A Breakdown of DCRat</b></p> <p>DCRat is, in some ways, amateurish, researchers assert. “There are certainly programming choices in this threat that point to this being a novice malware author,” they wrote.</p> <p>“The administrator tool is a standalone executable written in the JPHP programming language, an obscure implementation of PHP that runs on a Java virtual machine,” BlackBerry wrote.</p> <p>JPHP, they noted, is an easy-to-use language aimed at novice developers of desktop games. “The malware author may have chosen this format because it’s not particularly well-known, or they might have lacked programming skills in other, more mainstream languages.”</p> <p>In another odd quirk, researchers note, is the malware author “implemented a function that displays a randomly generated number of ‘servers working’ and ‘users online’ that are meant to appear as statistics in the background of the administrator tool. It could be that they are trying to make their tool appear more popular, or that they just didn’t know how to implement an accurate counter and have employed a pseudo-counter in the meantime as a placeholder.”</p> <p>However, in most respects, DCRat punches well above its weight.</p> <p>Along with the stealer, command-and-control interface and administrator tool, the malware is highly customizable, demonstrating a higher level of attempted sophistication. The modular architecture allows RAT customers to create and share their own plugins.</p>

“DCRat’s modular architecture and bespoke plugin framework make it a very flexible option,” the researchers wrote, “helpful for a range of nefarious uses. This includes surveillance, reconnaissance, information theft, DDoS attacks, as well as dynamic code execution in a variety of different languages.”

Customization prevents DCRat from growing stale, even after three years. That, and the constant care and attention its author gives it. “The administrator tool and the backdoor/client are regularly updated with bug fixes and new features; the same applies to officially released plugins.” The researchers noted a particular case in 2020, when Mandiant published an in-depth look at the DCRat client. “Just days after this report was released,” to combat the unwanted attention, “the malware author shifted distribution of the RAT to a new domain.”

### Is DCRat an Outlier or an Omen?

Current is about \$7 for a two-month lease. For a year, \$33 and for a lifetime subscription \$63.

Researchers speculate the low price is because the criminals behind the malware are just looking for attention. “It could be that they’re simply casting a wide net,” the researchers theorized, “trying to get a little money from a lot of maliciously minded people. It could also be that they have an alternative source of funding, or this is a passion project rather than their main source of income.”

It remains to be seen whether DCRat will be an outlier on cybercrime forums, or a new precedent. The implications could be significant. If effective malware is as cheap as a cup of coffee, how many more people might be lured into trying it out? And how much more capable might their attacks be?

“The biggest, flashiest threat groups might get their name in lights,” the researchers concluded, “but they aren’t necessarily the cybercriminals that keep security practitioners up at night.”

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HEADLINE	05/09 FBI: BEC scams net \$43B in losses
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.scmagazine.com/analysis/email-security/business-email-compromise-scams-netted-43-billion-in-losses-as-new-variations-emerge-fbi-says">https://www.scmagazine.com/analysis/email-security/business-email-compromise-scams-netted-43-billion-in-losses-as-new-variations-emerge-fbi-says</a>
GIST	<p>Long the bane of the financial industry, business email compromise (BEC) is getting worse, as savvy cybercriminals find sly new avenues to make their fraudulent requests appear believable.</p> <p><a href="#">BEC scams</a> jumped a whopping 65% to a total of \$43 billion in losses worldwide in just five years, from 2016 to 2021, according to a <a href="#">public service announcement</a> and report released by the FBI late last week. The findings are based on data and complaints from Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) data and complaints, which IC3 has been compiling since October 2013. While virtually all forms of cybercrime have risen in recent months, the advanced approaches and level of loss from BEC concerns industry on-lookers.</p> <p>“The latest report from the FBI on business email compromise is disturbing, but not surprising,” said Gary McAlum, senior analyst for TAG Cyber. “BEC is just another form of social engineering that has increasingly become more sophisticated and profitable over time, quickly outpacing email security systems and employee training programs.”</p> <p>As online thieves have leveled up, BEC scams have become <a href="#">the “costliest cyberattacks.”</a> according to the IC3’s research. More advanced scam artists are using deep fake voice technology, web site-spoofing, fraudulent social media and employee profiles to support their phishing emails and make them appear more believable, according to Tari Schreider, strategic advisor for Aite Novarica.</p> <p>“Fraudsters perpetrate BEC scams based on illusion ... that can be months in the making to trick a company executive into believing the financial request to wire money is legitimate,” Schreider said, adding that it typically begins with bad actors infiltrating a company’s network and creating fake receivable accounts.</p>

“Deep fakes can be used to [synthetically create a voice impersonation](#) of the executive to confirm payment authorization,” Schreider said. “Next, fake but very real-looking businesses can be created, including websites, LinkedIn accounts, employee profiles, phone numbers. ... Once all the components of the cyber-grift are in place, it is executed.”

IC3 also reported the percentage of [cryptocurrency-based complaints](#) and losses increased significantly in 2021, with cybercriminals opting to request funds in the form of cryptocurrency because these transactions can occur quickly and tend to lack an audit trail. [Cybercriminals have stolen cryptocurrency](#) through both direct transfers to a crypto-exchange or an indirect or “second hop” transfer to an exchange, according to the IC3’s findings.

Many so-called cyber-grifters are pushing the boundaries of traditional BEC schemes, which tend to target businesses and individuals in finance, payroll or accounts payable who often respond to funds-transfer requests. The IC3 research found that these scams often incorporate more social engineering, as well as hijacking or mimicking legitimate business email accounts. The IC3 also noted that bad actors might acquire employee PII or tax information to add realism to their requests.

However, perhaps most troubling is that BEC seems to be flourishing largely under the radar because it has been (and continues to be) so tough to pinpoint, even after the fact. Although any phishing attack can do a great deal of harm, “they are not all created equally,” according to Patrick Sweeney, global head of [Cloudflare Area 1 Security](#).

While BEC may not be splashed across mainstream news reports as frequently as ransomware, “BEC attacks are very difficult to detect because they are not as blatant as clicking on a suspicious link, nor do they usually have any payload to identify,” Sweeney said.

“In fact, BECs utilize trust that you have already established with outside institutions,” he concluded. “They create very low signals that don’t typically rise to the top of a defender’s alert list, and tend to blend in with the usual noise of corporate email traffic.”

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Agricultural manufacturer hit by ransomware</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/agricultural-manufacturer-agco/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/agricultural-manufacturer-agco/</a>
GIST	<p>US agricultural equipment manufacturer AGCO has been hit by a ransomware attack, disrupting its operations during the critical planting season.</p> <p>The company confirmed the attack in a <a href="#">statement</a> on Friday May 6, which it admitted will impact its operations “for several days and potentially longer.”</p> <p>AGCO did not name the facilities affected or whether any data was stolen and said it was currently investigating the incident.</p> <p>There is also currently no indication as to the identity of the attackers.</p> <p>AGCO’s statement read: “AGCO, Your Agriculture Company (NYSE:AGCO), a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, announced today that on May 5, 2022, it was subject to a ransomware attack that has impacted some of its production facilities. AGCO is still investigating the extent of the attack, but it is anticipated that its business operations will be adversely affected for several days and potentially longer to fully resume all services, depending upon how quickly the company is able to repair its systems. The company will provide updates as the situation progresses.”</p> <p><i>Reuters</i> reported that the attack had led to tractor sales stalling during a critical period in the year for the agricultural industry. It quoted Tim Brannon, president and owner of B&amp;G Equipment Inc in Tennessee, who said: “We just have to trust that it will be over as soon as possible because we are coming into our busiest time of the year and it will be very damaging to our business and customers.”</p>

	Last year saw another major ransomware attack against the US' agricultural sector, with <a href="#">grain producer New Cooperative</a> allegedly hit by a \$5.9m ransom demand.
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 Critical infrastructure faces attack surge</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/critical-infrastructure-firms/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/critical-infrastructure-firms/</a>
GIST	<p>More than 70% of UK critical national infrastructure (CNI) providers have seen an increase in cyber-attacks since the start of the war in Ukraine, according to new research from Bridewell.</p> <p>The security services provider polled over 520 security decision-makers in the communications, utilities, finance, government, and transport and aviation sectors in order to better understand their concerns and risk exposure to cyber-threats.</p> <p>Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the surge in attacks since the war began in eastern Europe, 78% said they're worried about the threat of cyber warfare against the UK's CNI, and a quarter said they are concerned that their systems are vulnerable.</p> <p>One in ten said they fear their team won't be able to cope with such an attack.</p> <p>Concerns are particularly heightened in the transport and aviation sector, where 93% of respondents said they are worried about the possibility of cyber warfare. Some 86% reported increased cyber-attack volumes in this sector since the start of the war, and 69% are worried their systems are vulnerable.</p> <p><a href="#">An HP report from 2021</a> warned that the world is closer than ever to a situation where cyber warfare spills over into a kinetic battle. Most (64%) of the experts the report's author consulted during his research claimed that an escalation in digital tensions over the previous year was "worrying" or "very worrying."</p> <p>Their concerns appear well-founded, as Russia has launched repeated and widespread destructive attacks against Ukrainian targets during its botched invasion attempt.</p> <p>Late last month, <a href="#">Microsoft revealed</a> that Russia has launched at least 237 campaigns against Ukrainian targets, including wiper malware that threatens civilian welfare and "broad espionage and intelligence activities."</p> <p>Many have been timed to coincide with real-world physical military operations.</p> <p>Martin Riley, director of managed security services at Bridewell, argued that CNI operators must collaborate more effectively to protect the societies they serve.</p> <p>"Great progress has been made across the industry since the introduction of the NIS Regulations but it's now imperative that organizations include threat intelligence in their cybersecurity strategies to strengthen resilience," he added.</p> <p>"Developing a culture of information sharing among peers and supply chains is key to protecting our infrastructure and citizens."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Ransomware attack victimizes rural college</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/lincoln-college-to-close-after-157-years-due-ransomware-attack/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/lincoln-college-to-close-after-157-years-due-ransomware-attack/</a>
GIST	Lincoln College, a liberal-arts school from rural Illinois, says it will close its doors later this month, 157 years since its founding and following a brutal hit on its finances from the COVID-19 pandemic and a recent ransomware attack.



This decision was made even harder with the college having survived multiple disasters, including a major fire in 1912, the Spanish flu, the Great Depression, the World Wars, and the 2008 global financial crisis.

However, a December ransomware attack was the final straw that made the decision to shut down on May 13, 2022, one that just couldn't be avoided.

The school has notified the Illinois Department of Higher Education and Higher Learning Commission of this incoming permanent closure, and its Board of Trustees has already voted to cease all academic activity at the end of the spring semester.

This Illinois liberal-arts school is one of the few rural American colleges that the Department of Education has qualified as a predominantly Black institution, as [NBC first reported](#).

"Lincoln College was a victim of a cyberattack in December 2021 that thwarted admissions activities and hindered access to all institutional data, creating an unclear picture of Fall 2022 enrollment projections," [reads an announcement](#) published on the college's website.

"All systems required for recruitment, retention, and fundraising efforts were inoperable. Fortunately, no personal identifying information was exposed.

"Once fully restored in March 2022, the projections displayed significant enrollment shortfalls, requiring a transformational donation or partnership to sustain Lincoln College beyond the current semester."

*Lincoln College has been serving students from across the globe for more than 157 years. The loss of history, careers, and a community of students and alumni is immense. — David Gerlach, president of Lincoln College*

### **Ransomware: a constant threat to education orgs**

While tragic and the first shutdown of a school caused by a ransomware attack, Lincoln College is just one of more than 1,000 other schools hit by ransomware last year, according to an [Emsisoft report](#).

Eighty-eight education organizations were directly impacted by ransomware last year per Emsisoft, including 62 school districts and the campuses of 26 colleges and universities across the country, disrupting learning at 1,043 individual schools.

Even though the number is lower than the previous year (when 1,681 education institutions [were hit](#)), this is mainly because such attacks hit smaller school districts in 2021.

Ransomware attacks have been a constant threat to US education for years now. A [joint advisory from CISA and the FBI](#) warned in December 2020 that K-12 educational institutions were being targeted by malicious actors for extortion and data theft.

Three months later, in March 2021, the FBI's Cyber Division warned system admins of educational institutions [increasingly being targeted by Pysa ransomware](#).

In November, a call to action from multiple US Senators asked the US Department of Education and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [to strengthen cybersecurity defenses at K-12 schools](#) across the nation to keep up with a massive incoming wave of attacks.

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HEADLINE	05/09 Fleeceware surges back into Google Play
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.darkreading.com/mobile/joker-fleecewear-mobile-trojans-google-play">https://www.darkreading.com/mobile/joker-fleecewear-mobile-trojans-google-play</a>



Several Android mobile Trojans are circulating in the wild that surreptitiously sign users up for paid services and take a cut for the scammers from the money that is billed. Many of these are getting around Google Play's official app store security measures.

Researchers from Kaspersky who have been tracking these most recent so-called "fleeceware" threats for the past several months say the malware is often capable of bypassing bot detection mechanisms on sites for paid services, and can even subscribe unsuspecting mobile device users to the scammers' own non-existent services.

The malware is often hidden within otherwise benign mobile applications such as healthcare apps, photo editors, and popular games on Google's Play mobile app store and other stores. The weaponized apps keep resurfacing almost as quickly as they are detected and removed, Kaspersky said.

Many of the applications ask for permission to access the user's notifications and messages. If those permissions are granted, the malware then intercepts and hijacks messages containing confirmation codes for their subscription, therefore leaving the users unaware they had just been subscribed to a paid service.

In a report, Kaspersky [highlights four of the most widely spread](#) Trojans in this category that it has observed in recent months — Jocker (aka Joker), MobOk, GriftHorse.l, and Vesub. The vendor estimates a startling 70% of Android device users had encountered subscription Trojans such as these at some point.

#### Four of the Worst

Kaspersky identifies MobOk as the most active of the four threats. The malware was first spotted within an infected app on Google Play, but more recently it has been seen getting distributed as a payload of Triada — another mobile Trojan often hidden within preinstalled system apps on some smartphones. Kaspersky says it has observed the malware on the APK Pure Android mobile app store, hidden inside what the vendor described as a widely used modification of WhatsApp Messenger.

Once installed on a system, MobOk works by opening a subscription page to a paid service in an invisible window. If the malware has been granted access to the user's notification service, it intercepts any confirmation code that the paid service might send to the device and uses that to confirm the subscription. One feature that sets MobOk apart from the other mobile Trojans is its ability to solve CAPTCHAs on subscription sites, Kaspersky says. A plurality of the MobOk infections that the vendor observed were in Russia, followed by India and Indonesia.

Jocker, meanwhile, is malware that Kaspersky recently found hidden within messaging apps, blood pressure monitoring software, document scanning apps, and other products on Google Play. Jocker is a long-known mobile threat that [continuously changes up its tactics](#) to continue to infiltrate the official app store.

In many cases scammers download legitimate versions of these apps from Google's app store, then insert Jocker code into it and re-upload them to the store under a different name, Kaspersky says. The malware was coded to remain dormant during Google's app vetting process but to become active when the application goes live. Like MobOk, Jocker too is designed to intercept text messages or notifications containing confirmation codes and using them to sign users up for paid subscription services without their knowledge.

The current version of the malware uses a staged download process — involving four files — to install the final component of the malware on end-user systems. It adopted the technique to try to avoid malware-detection mechanisms, Kaspersky notes. Researchers from the company observed the malware being used most frequently against Android users in Saudi Arabia, Poland, and Germany.

Vesub, meanwhile, is mobile malware that Android users can encounter on unofficial app stores. The malware is hidden within spoofed versions of popular game apps that actually contain no legitimate functionality. When installed, the malware straightaway attempts to start subscribing users to paid services, while all that a user sees is a window suggesting that the app is still loading. Like most

subscription Trojans, Vesub works only if it has been granted permission to access text messages or notifications. Kaspersky found the malware to be predominant in Egypt, Thailand, and Malaysia.

And finally, GriftHorse.l is different from the other malware in that it subscribes users to the malware author's own paid services, such as apps that promise to take users on a weight-loss plan for a fee. Users who sign up for these plans often do so without realizing that they are signing up for a service with periodic payments and automatic billing, Kaspersky says.

Ioannis Gasparis, staff security intelligence researcher at Lookout ,says the malware families that Kaspersky identified are indeed some of the more common threats for mobile users over the past six- to 12 months, Jocker, (which Lookout refers to as Joker), is somewhat older but still very relevant, according to Gasparis.

"In our observation, toll fraud has had a revival over the past one to two years, mainly driven by a small number of malware families that are being pushed aggressively by malicious actors," he says. "The impact on a victim is mainly financial and depends on the scamming service that the user gets subscribed to by the malware."

Richard Melick, director of threat reporting at Zimperium, says malware such as these should not be considered a consumer-only threat.

"Organizations of all sizes must start realizing that there is no such thing as a consumer-only threat in the world of BYOD," he said, in emailed comments. "Each time Jocker and other long-standing malware go through an update, they continue to put critical data, services, and attack surfaces at risk."

Security teams need to ensure they have the same kind of security architecture for mobile endpoints as they have for traditional devices.

Both Google and Apple have implemented numerous measures over the years to prevent scammers from uploading malware to their respective mobile app stores. While the measures have helped limit malicious apps to a certain extent, security vendors have continued to find malware on these stores on a regular basis. Just last month, for instance, Google scrambled to remove at least six applications masquerading as legitimate antivirus tools that were in reality being used to drop a [banking Trojan called SharkBot](#). Check Point estimated the malware tools were downloaded more than 15,000 times before Google removed them from Google Play.

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HEADLINE	05/09 UK: record number online scams
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/10/uk-cybersecurity-unit-tackles-record-number-of-online-scams-in-2021?web_view=true">https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/10/uk-cybersecurity-unit-tackles-record-number-of-online-scams-in-2021?web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>Britain's cybersecurity unit has reported a record crackdown on internet scams after tackling more than 2.7m attempted frauds last year, a near-fourfold increase on the figure for 2020.</p> <p>The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), an arm of the GCHQ spy agency, said the interrupted scams included fake celebrity endorsements and bogus extortion emails. It stressed, however, that the increase in detection reflected aggressive targeting by the unit rather than an increase in scams.</p> <p>Lindy Cameron, the NCSC's chief executive, said one foiled scam involved a fraudster attempting to impersonate her. "We know that scammers will go to great lengths, and indeed my name has been used to try to trick people, but as we continue to expand our defences we can see the tangible impact this is having," she said.</p> <p>The scams were tackled under the agency's active cyberdefence programme, which targets high-volume attacks on members of the public, companies and organisations. The attacks include phishing campaigns in which the victim is tricked, often via email, into downloading malware or handing over their login details.</p>

	<p>Covid-19 triggered a surge in NHS-related scams, the NCSC said. It removed more than 1,400 NHS-themed phishing campaigns last year, an 11-fold increase on 2020, including fake messages about vaccine rollouts and certificates.</p> <p>The attempted Cameron scam was a fake email purporting to be from the NCSC chief informing the recipient that the unit had prevented £5m of their money from being stolen and that they should reply with personal information to get it back.</p> <p>The fake celebrity endorsements included a “special report”, published on a fake BBC news page, with the headline “Jeremy Clarkson gives British people the opportunity to make millions from home”, illustrated with photos not of the former Top Gear host but of the This Morning presenter Phillip Schofield instead.</p> <p>The other type of scam targeted aggressively by the NCSC last year, bogus extortion emails, involve falsely claiming a victim’s email has been hacked and saying they need to pay money.</p> <p>Scam adverts will be included in the scope of the forthcoming online safety bill, meaning that the largest social media platforms will be required to prevent paid-for fraudulent adverts appearing on their sites. This includes adverts carrying fake celebrity endorsements.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 London police: crypto muggings</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/london-police-warn-of-crypto/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/london-police-warn-of-crypto/?&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>Victims lost tens of thousands of pounds’ worth of digital currency in the second half of 2021 after a spate of incidents in which thugs forced them to unlock their smartphones, according to a new report.</p> <p>The City of London police provided Freedom of Information data to <i>The Guardian</i> which revealed that criminal gangs are increasingly combining physical threats with cyber-knowhow to part individuals with their virtual currency.</p> <p>Several anonymized incidents cited in the report reveal the type of opportunism driving the surge in crime.</p> <p>In one, an individual trying to order a cab on their phone had it seized by muggers, who then transferred £5000 of Ethereum from their Coinbase account before handing it back.</p> <p>In another, a man was held against a wall while thugs opened his device using facial recognition before transferring £6000 of Ripple out of his account.</p> <p>Sometimes the losses are even higher.</p> <p>One account tells of a man accosted while he was vomiting under a bridge. The mugger reportedly forced him to unlock his phone via fingerprint scan and then stole over £28,000, including cryptocurrency.</p> <p>Another victim had £10,000 stolen from their Crypto.com account after pickpockets operating in a pub grabbed his smartphone. He believes they had previously shoulder-surfed his PIN.</p> <p>Although blockchain technically allows investigators to trace the route of transactions, police don’t have the resources to look at relatively small losses like the ones above, <a href="#">according to the report</a>.</p> <p>However, if these incidents could be pieced together and linked to a larger organized crime operation, there may be more chance of a formal investigation, it added.</p> <p>Given the above happened in the relatively small area patrolled by the City of London police, the true scale of these emerging crimes could be even greater.</p>

	Raising user awareness will be an important part of any police response.
	“You wouldn’t walk down the street holding £50 notes and counting them. That should apply to people with crypto assets,” said Phil Ariss, head of the National Police Chiefs’ Council cryptocurrency team.
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Frappo: new phishing-as-a-service</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/05/10/frappo-phishing-service/?web_view=true">https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/05/10/frappo-phishing-service/?web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>The Resecurity HUNTER unit <a href="#">identified</a> a new underground service called “Frappo”, which is available on the Dark Web. “Frappo” acts as a Phishing-as-a-Service and enables cybercriminals to host and generate high-quality phishing pages which impersonate major online banking, e-commerce, popular retailers, and online services to steal customer data.</p> <p>The platform has been built by cybercriminals to leverage spam campaigns which distribute professional phishing content. “Frappo” is actively advertised on the Dark Web and on Telegram, where it has a group with over 1,965 active members – there cybercriminals discuss how successful they’ve been at attacking the customers of various online services.</p> <p>Initially, the service popped up on the Dark Web around March 22, 2021 and has been significantly upgraded since then. The last update of the service was registered on May 1, 2022.</p> <p>“Frappo” grants cybercriminals the ability to work with stolen data anonymously and in an encrypted format. It provides anonymous billing, technical support, updates, and the tracking of collected credentials via a dashboard.</p> <p>“Frappo” was initially designed to be an anonymous cryptocurrency wallet based on a fork of Metamask and is completely anonymous, it doesn’t require a threat actor to register an account.</p> <p>The service provides phishing pages for over 20 financial institutions (FIs), online retailers and popular services – including Amazon, Uber, Netflix, Bank of Montreal (BMO), Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), CIBC, TD Bank, Desjardins, Wells Fargo, Citizens, Citi and Bank of America.</p> <p>phishing service</p> <p>The authors of “Frappo” provide several payments plans for cybercriminals depending on their chosen duration of the subscription. Like a SaaS-based services and platform for legitimate businesses, “Frappo” allows cybercriminals to minimize costs for the development of phishing-kits and to use the same on a bigger scale.</p> <p>Notably, the deployment process of phishing pages is fully automated – “Frappo” is leveraging a pre-configured Docker container and a secure channel allowing it to collect compromised credentials via API.</p> <p>Once “Frappo” is properly configured, statistical data will be collected and visualized, such as: how many victims opened the phishing page, accessed authorization and entered credentials, uptime, and the server status. Compromised credentials will be visible in the “Logs” section with additional details about each victim, such as IP address, User-Agent, Username, Password, etc.</p> <p>The observed phishing pages (or “phishlets”) are high-quality and contain interactive scenarios that trick the victims into entering authorization credentials.</p> <p>Phishing-as-a-Service like “Frappo” are successfully used by threat actors for things like account takeover (ATO), business email compromise (BEC), and payment and identity data theft.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Bitcoin price falls 54% from high</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/bitcoin-price-falls-by-half-from-its-high-11652118584?mod=hp_trending_now_article_pos4">https://www.wsj.com/articles/bitcoin-price-falls-by-half-from-its-high-11652118584?mod=hp_trending_now_article_pos4</a>
GIST	<p>The cryptocurrency market <a href="#">has continued its slide</a> from last week, mirroring the fall of the broader stock market.</p> <p>The world's largest cryptocurrency, bitcoin, <a href="#">fell to \$31,075.70</a> on Monday evening, a 10% drop from Sunday at 5 p.m. EDT, according to prices from CoinDesk. Bitcoin's price has fallen 54% from its record high of \$67,802 in November.</p> <p>It is on track for the worst five-day stretch since the five days ended March 16, 2020, when it fell almost 38%.</p> <p>Ethereum, the second-largest cryptocurrency, fell Monday to \$2,286.10, almost 10% below the price Sunday evening.</p> <p>Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies more widely are known for their violent price swings. Individual investors controlled the market for years but institutional investors, such as hedge funds and money managers, <a href="#">have started to dominate it</a>.</p> <p>With more professional investors trading crypto, the market has increasingly moved in tandem with traditional markets. Many institutional investors that buy cryptocurrencies treat them as risk assets, similar to technology stocks. Investors <a href="#">tend to retreat to safer corners</a> of the market during turbulent bouts.</p> <p>The stock market dropped last week the day after the Federal Reserve announced <a href="#">a rate increase of a half point</a>, the biggest since 2000, to battle inflation. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said there could be additional increases during the summer. The central bank is also unwinding some of its \$9 trillion asset portfolio.</p> <p>The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite hit a new 52-week low on Monday, falling 26% year to date.</p> <p>Crypto prices have been stagnant for much of 2022 as investors brace for rising interest rates. The crypto market has been active over the past 24 hours, with almost \$155 billion in market volume in that period, according to CoinMarketCap. The global crypto market fell to \$1.4 trillion.</p> <p>Cryptocurrency companies have been working to become household names. Flush with venture-capital investment, crypto platforms have been <a href="#">spending more cash on lobbying efforts</a> and <a href="#">marketing directly to consumers</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/10 Russia hackers target western nations</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/10/russian-hackers-targeting-opponents-of-ukraine-invasion-warns-gchq-chief">https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/10/russian-hackers-targeting-opponents-of-ukraine-invasion-warns-gchq-chief</a>
GIST	<p>Russian hackers are seeking to target western countries supporting Ukraine in its efforts to resist Moscow's invasion, the head of GCHQ has said.</p> <p>Jeremy Fleming, the director of the British spy agency, said in a speech on Tuesday morning that while fears of a fully fledged online war between Russia and Ukraine had perhaps failed to materialise, there remained "plenty" of cyber activity as part of the conflict.</p> <p>As well as affecting Ukraine directly, there had been "some spillover of activity affecting other countries", Fleming said, and evidence that Russian actors were trying to escalate the conflict further afield.</p>

“We’ve seen indications that Russia’s cyber operatives continue to look for targets in countries that oppose their actions,” the GCHQ chief said. “That’s why we have increased our efforts to ensure UK businesses and government urgently improve levels of cyber resilience.”

Fleming did not provide extra evidence, but last month, Britain’s National Cyber Security Agency, an arm of GCHQ, joined forces with its US counterpart, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, in producing an [advisory notice](#) warning against a potential Russian escalation.

At the time they warned there was a risk some Russian criminal hackers “have recently publicly pledged support for the Russian government” and that they could be willing to engage “in retaliation for perceived cyber offensives against the Russian government or the Russian people”.

Russia has been accused of staging more than 200 cyber-attacks on Ukraine since launching its invasion on 24 February, according to an analysis from Microsoft, targeting government agencies and media companies with hacking attempts or destructive malware designed to disable systems.

Fleming said the UK, in conjunction with the US and other allies, was engaged in continuing “to support Ukraine in shoring up their cyber defences” – a recognition that the country is the frontline of what could yet spread into an international cyber conflict.

Last month, Ukraine said Russian hackers had tried to take out the country’s power grid, and came close to cutting off power for about 2 million people using a variant of the Industroyer malware. Although these attacks were aimed at Ukraine, there remains the risk that such malware could spread uncontrolled.

In 2017, Russian state actors launched the NotPetya malware against Ukrainian companies, but it spread indiscriminately around the world, affecting a string of western companies and even some Russian corporations. Western spy agencies have previously said that attack was also conducted by operatives from the GRU, or main intelligence directorate of the Russian army.

Fleming also used his speech to highlight that the National Cyber Force (NCF), a new offensive hacker group, run jointly by GCHQ and the Ministry of Defence, was involved in tackling cybercrime.

“Through the NCF we are actively undermining the cybercriminals’ assumption that they can act with impunity on the internet. We have disrupted criminals, making it clear that they are being observed, and going after their ability to profit from illegal activities,” he said.

The NCF activities have included actions to prevent cybercriminals “from profiting from their crimes” – though it was not spelled out how – and “denying them access to their cyber tools and malware” which are used to carry out attacks.

Later this month, Fleming added, Suella Braverman, the attorney general, would set out further details on how far the NCF can go in its efforts to maintain national security. She would “set out the government’s latest legal views on the responsible use of cyber capabilities”, he said.

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HEADLINE	05/09 Russia TV, online platforms hacked
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/09/russia-tv-hack-victory-day-ukraine-war/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/09/russia-tv-hack-victory-day-ukraine-war/</a>
GIST	<p>RIGA, Latvia — Russians using smart TVs reported seeing something atypical: A message appeared instead of the usual listing of channels. “The blood of thousands of Ukrainians and hundreds of murdered children is on your hands,” read the message that took over their screens. “TV and the authorities are lying. No to war.”</p> <p>The apparent hack, targeting ordinary Russians sitting by their televisions or looking things up on their search engines, broke through the pro-Moscow messaging Monday as Russia celebrated <a href="#">Victory Day</a>, a commemoration of the Soviet Union’s role in defeating Nazi Germany in World War II.</p>



As Russia intensified its attacks in Ukraine's south and east, thousands of Russian troops assembled in Moscow's Red Square for a military parade. Addressing them, President Vladimir Putin gave a speech doubling down on his invasion of Ukraine and accusing NATO and Western countries, without evidence, of provoking Russia.

The antiwar message that appeared on the screens of Russian smart TVs also appeared on the platforms of Yandex, Russia's IT giant. Like Google, it combines many products under one umbrella, including a search engine and a service providing TV programming schedules. On that page, the daily programs for state-run Channel One and Russia-1 were also defaced early Monday.

Russia's equivalent of YouTube, called Rutube, was also affected, it said in a statement.

"Following the sites of various Russian ministries, which have been constantly subjected to cyberattacks over the past two months, hackers have reached RUTUBE," Rutube said on its official Telegram channel. "Our video hosting has undergone a powerful cyberattack. At the moment, it is not possible to access the platform."

The streaming platform later said that it had "localized the incident" and was working to restore normal service, and that the apparent hackers were unable to access its content library.

"Specialists localized the incident, and work is currently underway to ensure security," Rutube said. "We will announce the timing of the restoration of the video service in the near future."

"RUTUBE confirms that third parties were unable to access the video archive," it said. "The entire library, including user content, is still stored on the service."

Russian government websites and state-run media outlets have faced what the government has called an ["unprecedented" wave of hacking](#) attacks since the Kremlin launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. In mid-March, Russia's Ministry of Digital Development and Communications said the attacks were at least twice as powerful as any previous ones, prompting the agency to enact unspecified measures to protect the services.

Some Russians in media also appear to be taking digital action to protest the war, even within their own country.

Articles with headlines condemning the invasion appeared on the front page of the Russian news website [Lenta.ru](#) early Monday.

Each article published by Lenta featured the disclaimer that the material had "not been agreed with the editorial leadership" and that "the Presidential Administration will punish the publication for publishing this."

"In other words," it said, "take a screenshot of this now, before it is deleted."

The stories — with forceful headlines such as "Vladimir Putin has turned into a pitiful and paranoid dictator" and "Russia abandons the corpses of their soldiers in Ukraine" — were shortly taken down.

Such statements are most likely forbidden in Russia under a [law passed this year](#) that bans any attempt to discredit Russian forces and their actions in Ukraine. Free-speech advocates say the law is a way for the Kremlin to control the narrative around the war. For example, it prohibits anyone from using the word "invasion" to describe the events in Ukraine — which Putin calls a "special military operation" to "denazify" the country.

Yegor Polyakov, an editor at Lenta, claimed joint responsibility for the antiwar material and said he and his colleague Alexandra Miroshnikova made a "conscious decision" to oppose the war.



	<p>“This is not a ‘hack by hackers’ at all; this is our conscious decision, which was made relatively long ago, but it was not possible to implement it quickly (I won’t say for what reasons yet),” he said in a statement provided to the Russian outlet Mediazona.</p> <p>Polyakov said there are almost no independent media outlets left in Russia, and he called on “potential critics . . . not to forget about humanism” and said they should “not put labels on everyone at once.”</p> <p>He said he and Miroshnikova “no longer work at Lenta.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Face-scanner Clearview AI agrees to limits</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/face-scanner-clearview-agrees-limits-court-settlement-84596061">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/face-scanner-clearview-agrees-limits-court-settlement-84596061</a>
GIST	<p>CHICAGO -- Facial recognition startup Clearview AI has agreed to restrict the use of its massive collection of face images to settle allegations that it collected people's photos without their consent.</p> <p>The company in a legal filing Monday agreed to permanently stop selling access to its face database to private businesses or individuals around the U.S., putting a limit on what it can do with its ever-growing trove of billions of images pulled from social media and elsewhere on the internet.</p> <p>The settlement — which must be approved by a county judge in Chicago — will end a 2-year-old lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups over alleged violations of an Illinois digital privacy law. The company still faces a separate privacy case before a federal judge in Illinois.</p> <p>Clearview is also agreeing to stop making its database available to Illinois state government and local police departments for five years. The New York-based company will continue offering its services to federal agencies, such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and to other law enforcement agencies and government contractors outside of Illinois.</p> <p>“This is a huge win,” said Linda Xóchitl Tortolero, president of Chicago-based Mujeres Latinas en Acción, which works with survivors of gender-based violence and was a plaintiff in the case along with the ACLU and other groups.</p> <p>Among the concerns raised by Tortolero's group was that photos posted on social media sites such as Facebook or Instagram — and turned into a “faceprint” by Clearview — could end up being used by stalkers, ex-partners or predatory companies to track a person's whereabouts and social activity.</p> <p>A prominent attorney who was defending Clearview against the lawsuit said the company is “pleased to put this litigation behind it.”</p> <p>“The settlement does not require any material change in the company’s business model or bar it from any conduct in which it engages at the present time,” said a statement from Floyd Abrams, a lawyer known for taking on high-profile free speech cases.</p> <p>Abrams noted that the company was already not providing its services to police agencies in Illinois and agreed to the 5-year moratorium to “avoid a protracted, costly and distracting legal dispute with the ACLU and others.”</p> <p>Illinois’ Biometric Information Privacy Act allows consumers to sue companies that don’t get permission before harvesting data such as faces and fingerprints. Another privacy lawsuit over the same Illinois law led Facebook last year to agree to pay \$650 million to settle allegations it used photo face-tagging and other biometric data without the permission of its users.</p>

"It shows we can fight these companies when they're taking these kinds of actions," Tortolero said of the Clearview settlement. "It also highlights the fact that there are many ways that social media — and the technology companies that collect this kind of information — can be harmful to Americans."

The settlement document says Clearview continues to deny and dispute the claims brought by the ACLU and other plaintiffs. But even before Monday's settlement, the case has been curtailing some of the company's controversial business practices.

Clearview AI co-founder and CEO Hoan Ton-That told The Associated Press in April that the company was preparing to launch a new "consent-based" business product to compete with the likes of Amazon and Microsoft in verifying people's identity using facial recognition.

The new venture would use Clearview's algorithms to verify a person's face, but would not involve its trove of some 20 billion images, which Ton-That said is now reserved for law enforcement use. That's a shift from earlier in Clearview's business history when it had pitched the technology for a variety of commercial uses.

Regulators from Australia to Canada, France and Italy have taken measures to try to stop Clearview from pulling people's faces into its facial recognition engine without their consent. So have tech giants such as Google and Facebook. A group of U.S. lawmakers earlier this year warned that "Clearview AI's technology could eliminate public anonymity in the United States."

While Monday's settlement "reins in Clearview's practices significantly," it should not end scrutiny of the company by Congress, state legislatures and regulators, said Nathan Freed Wessler, deputy director of ACLU's speech, privacy and technology project. Much of the strength of Clearview's artificial intelligence technology — now a selling point for police and other uses — is that it was able to "learn" from all of the faces it scanned across the publicly accessible internet.

"This company's approach was effectively a Silicon Valley mentality of let's break things first and then figure out how to clean up the mess later in order to try to make a profit," Wessler said. "They broke through a very strong taboo that had kept big tech companies like Google and others from building the same product that they had the technological capability to do."

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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	05/10 Afghans still adjusting life in US
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-afghanistan-immigration-europe-evacuations-b2783eed17697103f2e36f2654ea0315">https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-afghanistan-immigration-europe-evacuations-b2783eed17697103f2e36f2654ea0315</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (AP) — Taliban forces had taken the Afghan capital. Crowds of panicked people thronged the airport. And a young man who had worked as a subcontractor for the U.S. military faced a terrible choice.</p> <p>Hasibullah Hasrat, after having navigated the chaotic streets and Taliban checkpoints to make it inside the airport, could either go back for his wife and two young children or board an evacuation flight and get them later. Not taking the flight likely meant none of them would get out of Afghanistan.</p> <p>Hasrat's decision haunts him. He is in the U.S., one of more than 78,000 Afghans admitted into the country following the U.S. troop withdrawal in August that ended America's longest war. But his family hasn't been able to join him. They're still in Afghanistan, where an economic crisis has led to widespread hunger and where Taliban repression is on the rise.</p> <p>"My wife is alone there," he said, his voice breaking as he describes nightly phone calls home. "My son cries, asks where I am, when am I coming. And I don't know what to say."</p>

It's a reminder that the journey for many of the Afghans who came to the United States in the historic evacuation remains very much a work in progress, filled with uncertainty and anxiety about the future.

Afghan refugees, some of whom faced possible reprisals for working with their government or American forces during the war with the Taliban, say in interviews that they are grateful to the U.S. for rescuing them and family members.

But they are often struggling to gain a foothold in a new land, straining to pay their bills as assistance from the government and resettlement agencies starts to run out, stuck in temporary housing, and trying to figure out how to apply for asylum because most of the Afghans came under a two-year emergency status known as humanitarian parole.

"We are not sure what may happen," said Gulsom Esmaelzade, whose family has been shuttled between hotel rooms in the San Diego area since January, after spending three months at a New Jersey military base. "We don't have anything back at home in Afghanistan and here we also don't have any future."

It's taken a toll. Esmaelzade said her mother has had to be rushed three times to the emergency room when her blood pressure shot up to dangerous levels. The younger woman attributes it to the stress of their lives.

Then there are more mundane challenges that are nonetheless daunting for many Afghans. They include learning English, navigating government bureaucracies and public transportation, and finding a job.

There is also the isolation for those, like Hasrat, who came alone. "I don't know anyone here," he said in the apartment outside Washington he shares with two other evacuees. "I have no friends, no family, no relatives. I just live with my roommates and my roommates are from other parts of Afghanistan."

Some have managed to get established. "But there are many more who are not doing fine than are doing well," said Megan Flores, executive director of the Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Center in McLean, Virginia.

The experience of the evacuated Afghans is not unlike what refugees have historically faced in coming to the United States. In some ways it's a preview for the up to 100,000 Ukrainians who President Joe Biden says will be welcomed, also in many cases on two years of humanitarian parole.

Afghans on humanitarian parole must apply for a way to stay in the country such as through asylum. It's a time-consuming process that typically requires finding an immigration attorney, at a cost of thousands of dollars not readily available to most refugees unless they can find someone to do it pro bono.

The Department of Homeland Security says about half of the 78,000 likely will ultimately qualify for the special immigrant visa, or SIV, program. It grants permanent residency to people, along with their immediate family, who worked for the U.S. government. Hasrat hasn't been able to secure an SIV, at least not yet, despite his work as a subcontractor setting up transmission lines for the U.S. Army.

Congress could resolve the situation by passing the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would enable evacuees to apply for permanent residency after a year in the country, similar to relief granted in the past to people from Iraq, Cuba and Vietnam. Biden recently gave the effort a boost when he endorsed the idea of adding it to an upcoming Ukraine aid bill, a move welcomed by a coalition that includes veterans, religious organizations and resettlement agencies.

"They are facing a ticking time bomb of what happens if they don't get SIV or asylum status," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. "Do they get deported back to Afghanistan and into harm's way?"

In the meantime, Afghans are trying to stitch together new lives as public attention has shifted to Ukraine and other matters. At a recent job fair in Alexandria, Virginia, there were hundreds of evacuees, including

Arafat Safi, a former senior official in Afghan's foreign affairs ministry who came to the U.S. with his wife, four children and mother.

He's hoping to land a job in project management or international development, to use an education that includes a master's degree from the U.K. So far, he's landed a position as a Pashto-English interpreter and is delivering packages for Amazon on the side while his wife, Madina, works in the bakery section of a supermarket.

Safi said he still hopes to find a better job and is eager to get permanent residency. But he never complained in a lengthy interview at the family's apartment in Alexandria. An intricate and vibrant Afghan rug — the only possession the family brought from home — occupies a prominent place in the living room.

"I'm very lucky to be here, to be welcomed by the U.S. society. I met a lot of friends here who are checking on me almost every day," said the 35-year-old Safi. "And it's amazing. But there's a small part of me that misses Afghanistan and that misses my people."

Hasrat said he has little time to think about anything other than his family back home and the danger they face from the Taliban. A 29-year-old former competitive boxer, he rides a bike to his job as an administrative assistant at a medical office. After taxes and the money he sends home, he barely has enough to pay his bills. His roommates, who are still learning English, have even less and have trouble making the rent.

Most nights, Hasrat waits until it's late enough to have a video chat with his family. On one recent call, he tried to join the celebration of his kids' birthdays but was sad to realize his daughter doesn't even know him.

"I am telling them that, 'yeah, I am happy,' because if I told them my situation here they will be sad," he said. "But if no one is there to take care of your wife, how can you be happy?"

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HEADLINE	05/10 Pakistani Taliban vow to step up war
SOURCE	<a href="https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=956667">https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=956667</a>
GIST	<p>New Delhi, May 10: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has in a fresh statement warned soldiers in the Pakistani security forces that if they did not quit their jobs, they would have to face increasing attacks from the militant outfit in the days ahead.</p> <p>"Our fight is only in Pakistan where we are at war with Pakistani security forces, we are hoping to take control of Pakistan's border tribal region and make it independent," the TTP said in a statement.</p> <p>The statement says that the soldiers deployed in North Waziristan and other areas to fight against militant outfits have been suffering low morale and want to quit but are unable to do so due to harsh punishment.</p> <p>In a major blow to Pakistani security forces, the TTP has also announced that a prominent jihadi group, led by Eid Marjan from North Waziristan, has pledged allegiance to TTP chief Noor Wali Mehsud and joined their ranks.</p> <p>According to the TTP, all factions of militant groups have now united under the command of the TTP supremo Noor Wali Mehsud.</p> <p>The TTP, an umbrella organisation for several militant groups, has escalated attacks against Pakistani security forces in recent months, particularly in April.</p> <p>In the first three months of this year, 97 soldiers and officers were killed in multiple attacks by the group. Interestingly, the various social media accounts of the TTP have been showcasing the names and faces of those getting killed.</p>

The Baloch and ISIS-K groups have also upped the ante and are drawing moral support from the TTP, which is portraying "Afghans, Pashtuns and Balochs" as victims of the army's brutality and calling for the liberation of the Af-Pak border region.

Pashtun anger at the forcible erection of a barrier along the Durand Line is leading to frequent skirmishes with Pakistan's forces.

Tensions have also mounted between the Pakistani army and the Taliban regime in Kabul as the latter refused to reign in their ideological brother the TTP. Pakistan hoped that the insurgents turned rulers — who benefited from Pakistan's support over the past 20 years of war - would rein in the violence by TTP militants but in recent months, attacks by the group in Pakistan have increased.

Since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, the TTP has carried out 82 attacks in Pakistan, more than double the number over the same period of the previous year, according to the Islamabad-based Pak Institute of Peace Studies. The attacks killed 133 people.

Pakistan's frustrations further grew as the TTP launched "Al-Badr" offensive against the Pakistani army last week which is the most significant insurgent onslaught against Pakistan in recent years. In retaliation, Pakistan used fighter jets and drones to attack on the TTP hideouts inside Afghanistan making the Taliban rulers more furious.

Afghanistan defence minister Mullah Yaqoob has already issued a stiff warning to Pakistan to desist from any attacks inside Afghanistan or else be ready for retaliation.

What is extremely worrying for Pakistani forces is that ISIS-K and Baloch groups have also stepped up attacks in the country. The modern weapons and gadgets that are being used by these groups are acting as a force multiplier.

The TTP commanders have also sought more active support from the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan to set up an independent region in Pakistan.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 US sanctions IS financial network</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-imposes-sanctions-islamic-state-financial-network-2022-05-09/">https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-imposes-sanctions-islamic-state-financial-network-2022-05-09/</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON, May 9 (Reuters) - The United States on Monday imposed sanctions on what it said was a network of five Islamic State financial facilitators working across Indonesia, Syria and Turkey in support of members of the extremist jihadist group in Syria.</p> <p>The U.S. Treasury Department in a statement accused those designated of playing a key role in facilitating the travel of extremists to Syria and other areas where Islamic State operates, and of conducting financial transfers to support the group's efforts in Syria-based displaced persons camps.</p> <p>The Treasury said the network collects funds in Indonesia and Turkey, "some of which were used to pay for smuggling children out of the camps and delivering them to ISIS foreign fighters as potential recruits."</p> <p>"The United States, as part of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, is committed to denying ISIS the ability to raise and move funds across multiple jurisdictions," Brian Nelson, the Treasury's under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in the statement.</p> <p>Monday's move, which targeted Dwi Dahlia Susanti, Rudi Heryadi, Ari Kardan, Muhammad Dandi Adhiguna and Dini Ramadhani, freeze any of their U.S. assets and generally bar Americans from dealing with them.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Eastern Congo: dozens killed by rebels</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dozens-killed-rebels-eastern-congos-ituri-province-84591110">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dozens-killed-rebels-eastern-congos-ituri-province-84591110</a>
GIST	<p>KINSHASA, Congo -- Rebels in eastern Congo attacked a village near a mine in Ituri province, killing at least 52 people, government officials said.</p> <p>Fighters with the group known as CODECO attacked the town of Kablangete on Sunday, said Jean-Pierre Bikilisende, the mayor of Mongwalu, which is 7 kilometers (4 miles) away.</p> <p>In addition to those killed, 100 civilians were missing, Bikilisende said.</p> <p>Congo's government condemned the killings as a "barbaric and cowardly act of CODECO terrorists on innocent populations," Congo's Ministry of Communications said in a statement. The government said it is determined to restore peace in the region.</p> <p>At least 38 civilians, including women and children, were killed at the Blakete-Plitu mining site, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York, "and more civilians were displaced and reported missing when the attackers set fire to the nearby Malika village, where they also reportedly raped six women."</p> <p>The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo evacuated severely injured civilians on Monday to medical facilities in Bunia in Ituri Province, Dujarric said.</p> <p>U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Congolese authorities to investigate the incidents, bring those responsible to justice, and ensure the peacekeeping mission's immediate access to the area "to facilitate efforts to protect civilians," Dujarric said.</p> <p>The U.N. chief urged all armed groups in Congo to stop attacking civilians, participate in the political process and lay down their arms, he said.</p> <p>Jean Ladis Maboso, an administrator in the affected area, called for justice.</p> <p>"We condemn this killing of civilians. The militiamen executed civilians in the absence of security elements," he said. "It is a criminal act that cannot go unnoticed."</p> <p>In February, CODECO fighters attacked the Djugu area and killed at least 60 people.</p> <p>Eastern Congo has been destabilized for years by attacks by several different rebel groups, including CODECO, that are vying for control of the mineral-rich area. The ongoing violence has prompted thousands of rural residents to flee their homes for safer areas.</p> <p>The latest attack comes a week after discussions were held in Kenya between the Congolese government and rebel movements to try to establish peace and stability in the area.</p>
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Baby formula shortage; parents desperate</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/09/baby-formula-shortage-abbott">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/may/09/baby-formula-shortage-abbott</a>
GIST	<p><a href="#">The US baby formula shortage</a> is leaving manufacturers scrambling and parents in desperation.</p> <p>During the week starting 24 April, 40% of baby formula was out of stock in more than 11,000 stores across the country, <a href="#">CNN</a> and <a href="#">USA Today</a> reported, compared to an out-of-stock percentage of 2 to 8% during the first half of 2021.</p>

In six states – Texas, Tennessee, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri – more than half of available baby formula in stores was sold out during the week of 24 April, [according to CNN](#) and USA Today, citing information from the website [Datasembly](#).

Amid fears of formula stockpiling, several major retailers, including Walgreens and CVS, have placed limits on how much formula parents can buy at a time.

Experts say that strained baby formula supplies were further exacerbated after [a recall by the manufacturer Abbott Nutrition](#). In February, Abbott voluntarily recalled three of its products after reports of illness among infant consumers, including two who died.

The Abbott recall particularly afflicted families who rely on public benefits such as WIC – a special supplemental food program for low-income women and children – because the manufacturer was the exclusive supplier for more than half of the agencies administering WIC, Brian Dittmeier of the National WIC Association told [the New York Times](#).

Now, parents who are desperate to secure a regular supply of baby formula for their children are having increased difficulty obtaining a single can.

Many parents have been [relying on social media groups](#) to stay abreast of inventory restocks and possible bargains. The groups have been particularly useful for parents whose children require certain types of formulas due to allergies or other medical issues.

Particularly in areas with low supply, parents have been forced to travel to neighboring states just to see if any formula is available there.

“It’s a nightmare,” Ashley Hernandez, a mother of two, said [to the Times](#). Hernandez has been procuring formula for her two girls from eBay, [frantically messaging potential sellers about her requests](#).

As the scarcity intensifies, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a statement saying it was aware of supply issues that the Abbott recall had aggravated, especially when coupled with shortages stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The FDA is working with Abbott Nutrition to better assess the impacts of the recall and understand the production capacity at other Abbott facilities that produce some of the impacted brands,” [the FDA said in a statement](#).

Other baby formula suppliers have said they are adjusting their operations to meet the increased demand created by the Abbott recall.

For example, the [manufacturer of the Enfamil infant formula told USA Today](#) that its factories are running 24/7 and shipped out 30% more of its formula during its first quarter of the year.

But as supply chain issues worsen and store shelves remain empty of formula, parents of infants are growing more uncertain about how to feed their babies.

“Every day, we hear from parents who are hurt, angry, anxious and scared,” Dittmeier, of the National WIC Association, said to the Times. “The lives of their infants are on the line.”

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HEADLINE	05/09 Earth 50-50 chance warming temp by 2026
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/earth-given-50-50-chance-of-hitting-key-warming-mark-by-2026">https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/earth-given-50-50-chance-of-hitting-key-warming-mark-by-2026</a>
GIST	NEW YORK — The world is creeping closer to the warming threshold international agreements are trying to prevent, with nearly a 50-50 chance that Earth will temporarily hit that temperature mark within the next five years, teams of meteorologists across the globe predicted.



With human-made climate change continuing, there's a 48% chance that the globe will reach a yearly average of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels of the late 1800s at least once between now and 2026, a bright red signal in climate change negotiations and science, a team of 11 different forecast centers predicted for the World Meteorological Organization late Monday.

The odds are inching up along with the thermometer. Last year, the same forecasters put the odds at closer to 40% and a decade ago it was only 10%.

The team, coordinated by the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office, in their five-year general outlook said there is a 93% chance that the world will set a record for hottest year by the end of 2026. They also said there's a 93% chance that the five years from 2022 to 2026 will be the hottest on record. Forecasters also predict the devastating fire-prone megadrought in the U.S. Southwest will keep going.

"We're going to see continued warming in line with what is expected with climate change," said UK Met Office senior scientist Leon Hermanson, who coordinated the report.

These forecasts are big picture global and regional climate predictions on a yearly and seasonal time scale based on long term averages and state of the art computer simulations. They are different than increasingly accurate weather forecasts that predict how hot or wet a certain day will be in specific places.

But even if the world hits that mark of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial times — the globe has already warmed about 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s — that's not quite the same as the global threshold first set by international negotiators in the 2015 Paris agreement. In 2018, a major United Nations science report predicted dramatic and dangerous effects on people and the world if warming exceeds 1.5 degrees.

The global 1.5 degree threshold is about the world being that warm not for one year, but over a 20- or 30-year time period, several scientists said. This is not what the report predicts. Meteorologists can only tell if Earth hits that average mark years, maybe a decade or two, after it is actually reached there because it is a long term average, Hermanson said.

"This is a warning of what will be just average in a few years," said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, who wasn't part of the forecast teams.

The prediction makes sense given how warm the world already is and an additional tenth of a degree Celsius (nearly two-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) is expected because of human-caused climate change in the next five years, said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of the tech company Stripe and Berkeley Earth, who wasn't part of the forecast teams. Add to that the likelihood of a strong El Nino — the natural periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that alter world weather — which could toss another couple tenths of a degree on top temporarily and the world gets to 1.5 degrees.

The world is in the second straight year of a La Nina, the opposite of El Nino, which has a slight global cooling effect but isn't enough to counter the overall warming of heat-trapping gases spewed by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, scientists said. The five-year forecast says that La Nina is likely to end late this year or in 2023.

The greenhouse effect from fossil fuels is like putting global temperatures on a rising escalator. El Nino, La Nina and a handful of other natural weather variations are like taking steps up or down on that escalator, scientists said.

On a regional scale, the Arctic will still be warming during the winter at rate three times more than the globe on average. While the American Southwest and southwestern Europe are likely to be drier than normal the next five years, wetter than normal conditions are expected for Africa's often arid Sahel region, northern Europe, northeast Brazil and Australia, the report predicted.

	<p>The global team has been making these predictions informally for a decade and formally for about five years, with greater than 90% accuracy, Hermanson said.</p> <p>NASA top climate scientist Gavin Schmidt said the figures in this report are “a little warmer” than what the U.S. NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration use. He also had doubts about skill level on long-term regional predictions.</p> <p>“Regardless of what is predicted here, we are very likely to exceed 1.5 degrees C in the next decade or so, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that we are committed to this in the long term — or that working to reduce further change is not worthwhile,” Schmidt said in an email.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Living on cruise ship cheaper than house?</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/couple-lives-permanently-on-cruise-ships-because-its-cheaper-than-housing-angelyn-burk-richard-burk-seattle-australia-mortgage-retirement-plans-vacation-travel-escape-retire-living-on-a-boat">https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/couple-lives-permanently-on-cruise-ships-because-its-cheaper-than-housing-angelyn-burk-richard-burk-seattle-australia-mortgage-retirement-plans-vacation-travel-escape-retire-living-on-a-boat</a>
GIST	<p>WASHINGTON (TND) — A Seattle couple has lived aboard cruise ships for the past year after determining it's cheaper than a mortgage — and they have no plans to return to living on land.</p> <p>Angelyn and Richard Burk — both in their 50s — have always dreamed of retiring to a life of travel, <a href="#">according</a> to 7 News in Australia.</p> <p>The couple had been going on a cruise around the world at least once, sometimes twice each year. But it was in early 2021 that Angelyn, an accountant, crunched the numbers and found something unexpected — the pair could retire now, and liveaboard cruise ships for as little as \$43/day — cheaper than their current living expenses.</p> <p><i>Our original plan was to stay in different countries for a month at a time and eventually retire to cruise ships as we got older,” Angelyn Burk <a href="#">told</a> 7 News Australia. “We love to travel and we were searching for a way to continuously travel in our retirement that made financial sense.”</i></p> <p>Using their savings, and the anticipated sale of their Seattle home, the Burks found a way to make life possible by hopping from cruise ship to cruise ship. They also take full advantage of loyalty points and sales to make their dream of retirement on the seas a reality.</p> <p>“We have been frugal all our lives to save and invest in order to achieve our goal,” Angelyn Burk says. “We are not into materialistic things but experiences.”</p> <p>The pair quit their jobs, leaving their bills behind.</p> <p>“We don’t plan to permanently live on land in the future,” Angelyn says. The couple says they can count on one hand how many times they have slept on land in the past year.</p> <p>Hopping from ship to ship takes a lot of planning and when the ship schedules don’t always match up, they stay on land.</p> <p>They began their retirement life by going on a 50-day cruise around the Adriatic Sea, touring much of Europe. They followed that with a 51-day cruise from Seattle to Sydney. They hope to go to “every corner of the globe.”</p> <p>Some of the Burks' <a href="#">favorite spots</a>, so far are Singapore, Italy, Canada, Iceland and the Bahamas.</p> <p><i>I believe this is achievable for the everyday cruiser, but it does take effort,” Angelyn Burk says. “It is leisurely travel without the complications of booking hotels, restaurants and transportation, while staying within our budget.”</i></p>

## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	05/10 Churches, pro-life advocates targeted
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.eurasiareview.com/10052022-tabernacle-stolen-catholic-church-defaces-pregnancy-clinic-vandalized/">https://www.eurasiareview.com/10052022-tabernacle-stolen-catholic-church-defaces-pregnancy-clinic-vandalized/</a>
GIST	<p>More criminal acts targeting Catholic churches and pro-life advocates were reported Monday, after a Mother's Day weekend marked by unrest in multiple locations in the U.S. tied to anger over a possible Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade.</p> <p>In one of the latest incidents, the pastor a Catholic church in Katy, Texas, reported on May 9 that its tabernacle had been stolen from the church overnight. It was not known whether the theft had any connection to a pro-abortion group's recent threats to disrupt Catholic Masses on Sunday and burn the Eucharist.</p> <p>"We don't know who did it but the police are investigating. Please pray for us and for those who committed this criminal sacrilege," Father Christopher Plant of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Catholic Church, located in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, <a href="#">tweeted</a> May 9. Additional information was unavailable prior to publication Monday.</p> <p>In another incident, a Catholic church in northern Colorado known for its active pro-life ministry was <a href="#">vandalized with pro-abortion graffiti</a> over the weekend.</p> <p>Vandalism at St. John XXIII parish in Fort Collins, Colo., May 7, 2022. Eileen Pulse</p> <p>The exterior of St. John XXIII parish in Fort Collins, about an hour's drive north of Denver, was defaced with red spray-painted inscriptions of "My Body My Choice" and a symbol that appears to be an "A" signifying "anarchy." Police said the incident took place around 1:15 am on Saturday, May 7, and that some "exterior glass panels" were also broken.</p> <p>In addition, Twitter user Rev. Dean Nelson tweeted May 9 that a pro-life Northern Virginia pregnancy resource center was vandalized overnight. CNA confirmed that the clinic is First Care Women's Health clinic in Manassas, Virginia. A photo shows black spray paint written on the side of the building saying, "ABORTION IS A RIGHT," and "LIARS."</p> <p>Becky Sheetz, CEO of First Care Women's Health, told CNA on Monday that "we are not fighting flesh and blood. We're fighting dark demonic forces. And you know that when you get into this work." She added, "This targeting is a symbol of our effectiveness."</p> <p><b>Protesters blocked in Seattle</b></p> <p>Another incident Sunday involved a heated confrontation between a security guard and protesters outside St. James Cathedral in Seattle, captured in a <a href="#">video posted online</a> by The Post Millennial.</p> <p>The video shows that as protesters begin walking up the church steps toward the security guard, who stands in their path, one woman falls down the stairs, which prompts other protesters to accuse the security guard of having pushed her. The video does not show whether the security guard pushes her or not.</p> <p>The protesters then shout expletives at the security guard. A police officer then steps between the security guard and the protesters on the steps. One of the protesters can be heard on the video saying that the group planned to deliver a stack of coat hangers to the church, an apparent reference to claims that overturning Roe would signal a return to illicit "back alley" abortions.</p>

In a statement to CNA, the Archdiocese of Seattle disputed the claim that the demonstrator was pushed down the stairs.

“Given the news last week that pro-abortion groups may protest during Masses this weekend, the Archdiocese of Seattle issued a communication to all parishes on Friday to alert them to this possibility,” the statement said.

“Over the weekend we received notice that a group was planning to protest at St. James Cathedral on Sunday. When protestors arrived they were asked to remain on the sidewalk and not enter the Cathedral since Mass had started. One woman rushed up the stairs into the security guard in an attempt to slip by him. In defense, he held up his arm and she flopped backwards. She was not pushed in any way,” the statement continued. “The Seattle Police, who were called ahead of time, witnessed the entire scene and wrote a report deeming her actions an assault on the security guard.”

The Seattle Police Department did not respond to CNA’s request for information prior to publication.

### **Biden condemns arson attack**

In [one of the previously reported incidents](#), the office of a pro-life organization in Madison, Wisconsin, was set on fire Sunday morning after at least one Molotov cocktail was thrown at the building. The fire was quickly put out by the Madison Fire Department. No one was hurt, police said. Graffiti left on the building’s exterior said, “If abortions aren’t safe than you aren’t either.”

In a statement, the White House condemned the attack on the headquarters of the group, Wisconsin Family Action.

“President Biden strongly condemns this attack and political violence of any stripe. The President has made clear throughout his time in public life that Americans have the fundamental right to express themselves under the Constitution, whatever their point of view. But that expression must be peaceful and free of violence, vandalism, or attempts to intimidate,” the White House statement said.

Anger among supporters of legalized abortion erupted last week when [Politico published a leaked draft of a preliminary opinion](#) written by conservative associate justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. in a Mississippi abortion case. Politico reported that four other conservative justices were poised to join Alito in overturning the landmark 1973 ruling in Roe and another decision nearly 20 years later in Planned Parenthood v. Casey that affirmed Roe’s legalization of abortion nationwide.

In response, a pro-abortion group, Ruth Sent Us, called on abortion advocates to disrupt Catholic Masses on Mother’s Day. The group also posted the addresses of several conservative justices and called for rallies outside their homes. Protesters demonstrated outside the homes of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh on Saturday.

Ruth Sent Us called for another protest outside Alito’s home on Monday night.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 OR anti-abortion office struck by firebombs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/molotov-cocktails-thrown-at-oregon-anti-abortion-office/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/molotov-cocktails-thrown-at-oregon-anti-abortion-office/</a>
GIST	<p>KEIZER, Ore. (AP) — Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at an anti-abortion organization in a suburb of Salem, Oregon, on Sunday after an unsuccessful attempt to break in.</p> <p>At about 10:40 p.m., one or more people unsuccessfully tried to break a window at the Oregon Right to Life building, the Keizer Police Department said in a news release Monday.</p>

Police said the person or people then ignited two Molotov cocktails and threw them toward the brick building. There was a small fire with minimal damage and no one was in the building at the time, police said.

This case is under investigation and police said they are seeking tips.

The incident happened around the same time someone threw two Molotov cocktails into the office of a Wisconsin anti-abortion lobbying group's office and after two Catholic churches in Colorado, including one known for its annual anti-abortion display, were vandalized last week.

The leak last week of a draft opinion suggesting that the U.S. Supreme Court was on course to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide sparked protests across the country.

If the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, abortion would remain legal in Oregon under state law.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Fired fatal shot at 14, sentenced at 18</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/nyregion/aaron-nathaniel-sentencing-timi-oyebola.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/09/nyregion/aaron-nathaniel-sentencing-timi-oyebola.html</a>
GIST	<p>It was a killing that connected two very different young lives.</p> <p>Timi Oyebola was 16 when he was shot to death while playing basketball at Chester Playground in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn on a September afternoon in 2018.</p> <p><a href="#">The boy who fired the fatal shot</a>, Aaron Nathaniel Jr., was even younger — just 14.</p> <p>The case prompted a public outpouring of grief because of the uncommonly young age of both the killer and the victim, but after Mr. Nathaniel's arrest, the justice system seemed to grind to a halt. By the time he pleaded guilty to murder last month, Mr. Nathaniel was 18; he had spent more than 1,300 days at <a href="#">Crossroads Juvenile Center</a> in Brownsville.</p> <p>On Monday, three and a half years after Mr. Nathaniel's arrest, Judge Craig S. Walker, who oversees the Youth Part of the Kings County Supreme Court in Brooklyn, sentenced Mr. Nathaniel to 10 years to life, calling it the harshest sentence he had imposed on a young person.</p> <p>Mr. Nathaniel nodded as the judge sentenced him but did not speak during the brief hearing, shaking his head when the judge asked if he wanted to address the court.</p> <p>The case represents an unusual example of the way New York adjudicates crimes involving so-called juvenile offenders — minors who face accusations so serious that they are treated much like adults. In New York, which has <a href="#">one of the youngest</a> age exceptions in the country, children as young as 13 can be tried as juvenile offenders for violent crimes.</p> <p>The delays in the case — partly but not entirely related to the pandemic — also renewed concerns about <a href="#">New York's spotty record</a> on defendants' right to a speedy trial, and left both childrens' families discontented.</p> <p>Timi's father, David Oyebola, said in an interview on the night of his son's murder that he had already forgiven the killer, and in another interview before the sentencing, said he prays for Mr. Nathaniel every day: "That his life takes a new turn, that God continues to visit him."</p> <p>But during the sentencing, he also expressed his frustration to the court during a video conference call from Indiana, where he and his family now live.</p> <p>"Justice delayed is justice denied," Mr. Oyebola said. "Your delay of this case from 2018 until now destroyed my faith in the system and showed how insensitive you are and how flawed your system of justice to be."</p>

Mr. Nathaniel will be held in a youth facility until he is 21, when he will go to an adult prison, a spokeswoman for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services said.

“This heartbreaking case highlights the devastation gun violence wreaks in our communities,” Eric Gonzalez, the Brooklyn district attorney, said in a statement. “A promising life has been cut short, a family remains in mourning, and after living through a troubled childhood, this young defendant’s future is now in ruins.”

The sentencing on Monday shed little new light on the circumstances of the killing. A witness told the police that Mr. Nathaniel had been angered by Facebook comments about the stabbing death of a friend, [one of four teens killed](#) in Brownsville that July. But Timi had nothing to do with the deaths and was not the intended target, according to the District Attorney’s Office.

“I understand the pain and there’s pain on both sides. There are no winners here at all,” Judge Walker said during the hearing. “The Oyebolas have lost a son that they can never see again, that they can never hold again, that they can never speak to again, and although Mr. Nathaniel is still here, he is also not going to be present in a sense in his family’s life.”

The two boys had come from very different backgrounds when their lives intersected violently that day in 2018.

Timi’s full name — Oluwadurotimi — means “God stands with me” in the Yoruba language of Nigeria, where he was born and lived until he and his sister joined their father in New York in 2013; his mother followed three years later.

In New York, Timi worshiped twice a week at a church in Brownsville where his father was a pastor. Less than a week before Timi died, youth group leaders asked everyone to describe themselves with an adjective starting with their initial. Standing 5-foot-5, Timi dryly declared himself “Tall Timi.”

Sometimes, he sneaked out to play basketball, but he was so quick that those trying to catch him would only later find him back in the sanctuary, a Bible in his lap.

Growing up in Brownsville, Mr. Nathaniel was still a baby when his father started passing in and out of jail, ultimately serving time for armed robbery. By around 2007, Aaron Nathaniel Sr. told the family to stop making the 16-hour round trip bus ride to visit him in prison, and Mr. Nathaniel was 9 before he saw his namesake again.

A quiet kid, Mr. Nathaniel was happiest on the basketball court, his father said. He spent hours playing pickup games. But a learning disability made school difficult and Mr. Nathaniel started getting into fights, so his father said he brought him to Connecticut, where he had eventually moved after his release. But by summer 2018, around the time of his friend’s stabbing, Mr. Nathaniel had shut down, and his father sent him back home to Brooklyn.

Mr. Nathaniel dropped out of school. Within months, he was arrested for Timi’s murder.

The case against Mr. Nathaniel was in the public eye from the beginning. Block-by-block video footage depicted him running from the playground, carrying a gun. For nearly two weeks, the police could not find him, so officers at Brooklyn’s 73rd precinct shared pictures and his name on [Twitter](#).

Cases involving minors are typically secret, but murders in New York are handled differently. After Mr. Nathaniel’s arrest and confession, he was treated sometimes as a child, sometimes as an adult.

The murder case was held in open court and will remain on his adult record, his identity unprotected. But three assault charges he racked up behind bars are sealed because he was not yet 18.

As New York’s judicial machinery slowly ground on, Mr. Nathaniel was growing up behind bars.

The state guarantees a speedy trial — defined as six months for felony accusations — but murder cases are excepted from that law. Another state law that required prosecutors to submit evidence by strict deadlines was not on the books until the year after Timi’s killing.

For the first year and a half after his arrest, there was little progress on his case. Then, the pandemic closed courtrooms all over the country. In all, Mr. Nathaniel spent nearly the entire duration of what would have been his high school years awaiting trial.

“The notion of holding a child for an extended period of time, an extraordinary time in Aaron’s case, is unconscionable, especially without a finding of guilt,” said Kristin Henning, a [law professor](#) and director of the [Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative](#) at Georgetown Law.

Mr. Nathaniel appeared to languish during his incarceration.

His father said he visited him at Crossroads as often as once a week. Last year, he began noticing red gashes on his son’s arms: He was cutting himself, and was put on suicide watch.

Crossroads is just two blocks from Howard Houses, the Brownsville housing project where Mr. Nathaniel grew up. He can see the apartment building from a window, his father said.

“He’s literally looking at his life pass,” Mr. Nathaniel said. “I think that’s extreme torture.”

The passage of time between his arrest and sentencing was plain in the two court hearings.

At his arraignment in October 2018, Mr. Nathaniel was escorted into court in handcuffs, a blue T-shirt pulled over a sweater, bluejeans hanging low on his 5-foot-4 frame. He kept his head down, watching the prosecutor a few steps away, out of the side of his eyes. He turned once to look back at his mother, seated on a bench behind him.

At his sentencing on Monday, Mr. Nathaniel walked into court in a white collared shirt and bluejeans, hands cuffed behind him, a light blue mask covering his face. He towered over his lawyer, bowing his head to whisper to her throughout the about 20-minute hearing. Five dark scars ran across his right forearm.

He asked through a lawyer if he could meet with his mother, who along with his father, had come to support him with eight other friends and family.

“Right now we are really pressed for time,” Judge Walker said, denying the request.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Threats lockdown community colleges</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://komonews.com/news/local/everett-community-college-campus-on-lockdown-due-to-threat">https://komonews.com/news/local/everett-community-college-campus-on-lockdown-due-to-threat</a>
GIST	<p>EVERETT, Wash. — A threat of explosives and firearms forced at least two local community college campuses to go into lockdown and cancel classes Monday.</p> <p>Mount Vernon police say it happened at Skagit Valley College and Everett Community College.</p> <p>Police confirm five colleges in four days have all been impacted by an email threat.</p> <p>Mount Vernon police Lt. Mike Moore said his department does not believe there is any credible threat to the community.</p> <p>“I think they’re trying to create shock and alarm trying to draw a reaction,” said Moore.</p>



Nonetheless, police and schools take such threats seriously and out of 'an abundance of caution' at Everett Community College and Skagit Valley College classes were canceled for the day.

“They discussed the use of explosives and firearms on campus,” said Lt. Moore.

All the entrances to the Everett campus are closed and blocked with barricades.

Students were told not to come to campus and at various checks throughout the day, it appears students were kept away.

Some students we found off-campus said the sudden lockdown left them a little unnerved.

Inside the dorms, students told KOMO news a warning alert over the sound system went out around 8 this morning –

They described it as stern, direct and attention-getting.

We caught up with Lexi Wenzek - a first year cosmetology student at Everett Community College.

She lives in the dorms and heard the lockdown alert when she got an email alert that in part told students to close their blinds, stay in their rooms and not to go to campus.

“When I looked at my phone I was like what's going on, that’s scary,” said Wenzek. “You should be able to go to school without being worried of something happening to your friends or yourself.”

Lt Moore says the same alert went out at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon too.

We visited the campus and it was quiet. Our cameras didn't see any students, and the parking lot was empty.

Both lockdowns were lifted by late morning.

Seattle confirmed an email threat happened recently at a college in Seattle too.

On Friday Bellevue Police confirmed two email threats, at Bellevue College and Northwest College.

Bellevue PD said it was a threat of violence against the schools and as a precaution we know Bellevue cc closed both its main and north campuses. Police continue to investigate.

A real scare and a real inconvenience for students who missed classes, although some teachers did offer ZOOM classes at Everett.

Investigators ask anyone with information to call the police.

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 FBI search: couple on run; multiple fraud</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/fbi-lookout-washington-couple-convicted-multiple-fraud-counts/281-59b5f185-eade-4cd8-8fa9-67be76c175d7">https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/fbi-lookout-washington-couple-convicted-multiple-fraud-counts/281-59b5f185-eade-4cd8-8fa9-67be76c175d7</a>
GIST	<p>FEDERAL WAY, Wash. — Renee Erdmann and Bernard Ross Hansen were found guilty of 10 counts of mail fraud and 10 counts of wire fraud last July.</p> <p>Charging documents from the FBI state that the couple defrauded thousands of their customers while running the bullion business, Northwest Territorial Mint, with offices in Auburn and Federal Way. The documents stated the couple promised goods that they failed to deliver, taking in more than \$20 million.</p>

	<p>Given the magnitude of the crime, the FBI stepped in.</p> <p>“The amount of loss, and the number of victims definitely is a reason why the FBI was involved in investigating this case,” said Steve Bernd, spokesperson for the FBI’s Seattle office. “With losses in the millions, that’s very significant.”</p> <p>Despite a recommendation that they remain in custody, the couple was allowed to go home and return for their sentencing hearing. When they failed to show up for the hearing, the FBI issued federal arrest warrants on April 29.</p> <p>They were last seen traveling in a blue 2005 Mazda MPV, and the FBI hopes to catch them before they leave the region.</p> <p>“It’s time for justice to be served and for them to serve their time,” Bernd said. “We believe that they’re still local. We’re not 100% sure, that’s why we’re encouraging the public to contact us if they feel they know where these people might be, because they have been convicted of a federal crime and it’s time for them to do their time.”</p> <p>The FBI says that the couple is using cash to fly under the radar and not leave a trail, and Erdmann may be identified by a slight limp. The couple is traveling with a Cardigan Welsh Corgi dog named “Stewie.”</p> <p>The Bureau is calling on anyone with any knowledge of these two to call 1-800-CALL-FBI.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Port Orchard man guilty plea in Capitol riot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/port-orchard-man-pleads-guilty-capitol-riot/281-2d725da5-389d-47d7-8192-105d859eb77f">https://www.king5.com/article/news/crime/port-orchard-man-pleads-guilty-capitol-riot/281-2d725da5-389d-47d7-8192-105d859eb77f</a>
GIST	<p>PORT ORCHARD, Wash. — A Port Orchard man pleaded guilty to a charge related to his participation in the U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021.</p> <p>John Cameron initially faced four charges but ended up pleading guilty to one count of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building following an agreement with federal prosecutors.</p> <p>The charge carries a maximum sentence of six months in prison, five years probation and/or a fine of \$5,000.</p> <p>On Jan. 8, 2021, the FBI received a tip indicating that Cameron had been at the U.S. Capitol riot two days earlier. The tipster provided the FBI with a link to Cameron's Facebook account, which included posts and pictures documenting his trip to Washington D.C. for the "Stop the Steal" rally, according to probable cause documents.</p> <p>Cameron posted a picture on his Facebook page that morning showing himself dressed in a "Make America Great Again" cap and a black hooded sweatshirt with a t-shirt on top that read "count all legal votes," according to court documents.</p> <p>CCTV video taken within the capitol building showed a man matching Cameron's description entering through the Senate Wing Door at around 2:20 p.m. on Jan. 6.</p> <p>The man made his way to the Crypt, and then toward the Memorial Door on the east side of the building. Video shows him exiting the Capitol by climbing through a broken window near the Senate Wing Door at around 2:42 p.m.</p> <p>Cameron posted other photos and videos on his publicly accessible Facebook account of himself and the crowd on restricted grounds of the U.S. Capitol, according to court documents. One video, captioned</p>

	<p>"Civil disobedience," showed rioters breaching the secured areas of the scaffolding surrounding the Capitol building.</p> <p>Cameron posted another video of himself on a D.C. Metro train after leaving the Capitol describing the events of the day. "Was it pretty?" Cameron said. "No. Did it make a statement? Yes."</p> <p>Cameron was officially charged for his participation in the Capitol riot on Dec. 10, 2021, and was arrested on Jan. 5, 2022. He entered a guilty plea on May 4 but has not yet been sentenced by a judge.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Judges agree, support Seattle CAO request</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-municipal-court-judges-agree-to-city-attorneys-request-to-prosecute-repeat-offenders/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/seattle-municipal-court-judges-agree-to-city-attorneys-request-to-prosecute-repeat-offenders/</a>
GIST	<p>The seven judges who sit on the Seattle Municipal Court bench <a href="#">agreed Monday to City Attorney Ann Davison's formal request</a> to exclude chronic offenders with multiple misdemeanor arrests from participating in a community court that seeks to release people from custody and connect them with services instead of sending them to jail.</p> <p>Seattle Community Court, launched in August 2020, is a collaborative effort among city attorneys, public defenders and the judges to provide a path for people to have misdemeanor charges dismissed by engaging in community services such as <a href="#">housing assistance, employment support and drug treatment</a>.</p> <p>Davison requested in late April that the judges exclude chronic offenders who meet the criteria for the <a href="#">High Utilizer Initiative</a> from Community Court so her office could prosecute them.</p> <p>At the time, Davison's office identified 118 people responsible for more than 2,400 criminal cases over the past five years, saying each of them had 12 or more referrals from Seattle police to the city attorney's office during that time and at least one case referred in the past eight months. Most of the cases involved crimes like theft, trespassing, assault and weapons violations.</p> <p>The agreement governing Community Court participation already allowed judges to screen people out of the program, according to a Monday news release from Seattle Municipal Court. But changes approved by the judges "will allow the City Attorney to decline to refer a case to Community Court even if it is technically eligible," the release says.</p> <p>Jail booking restrictions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic meant people arrested for misdemeanors were cited and released by police without knowing when they were expected to show up in court.</p> <p>"When a court date is set for these cases, many [defendants] cannot be reached by mail because of housing insecurity, mental health issues and substance abuse issues; all issues that Community Court was meant to address," the release says.</p> <p>Seattle Municipal Court judges are now proposing to establish a work group to explore ways to keep people engaged in their court cases while also helping connect them with services to address behavioral health matters.</p> <p>"Individuals causing the most impact on our community need meaningful accountability for their criminal activity paired with increased behavioral health services," Davison said in an emailed statement, thanking the court for agreeing to her request. "Addressing the impacts, and the unmet needs, of individuals engaged in frequent, repeat criminal activity is one of the best ways to improve public safety."</p> <p>King County Public Defender Anita Khandelwal said in a statement that Davison's office hasn't provided data showing traditional prosecution is effective in changing behavior and that the judges' decision will</p>

	<p>cause people with significant unmet needs to continue cycling through a system that's expensive, ineffective and disproportionately harms people of color.</p> <p>The Community Court was established to reduce those harms and quickly address the needs of vulnerable people, Khandelwal said.</p> <p>"While the court continues, we're sorry to see this collaboration unravel so quickly at the behest of the City Attorney," Khandelwal said.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 Haiti: 8 Turkish kidnapped from bus</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-turkish-citizens-kidnapped-bus-haiti-84594196">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/official-turkish-citizens-kidnapped-bus-haiti-84594196</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Eight Turkish citizens have been kidnapped in Haiti's capital, an official told The Associated Press on Monday, apparently the latest in a string of high-profile kidnappings by powerful gangs.</p> <p>Hugues Josue, Turkey's honorary consul in Haiti, said the group had boarded a bus in the neighboring Dominican Republic and were kidnapped late Sunday afternoon in the Croix-des-Bouquets neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. Those kidnapped were five men and three women, he said.</p> <p>Josue said he did not have any details on a potential ransom request, and no additional information was immediately available.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters that a "crisis desk" had been set up in Haiti and that Turkey was following the issue closely.</p> <p>"They are thought to have been kidnapped for ransom," Cavusoglu said. "There is negative concerning the state of their health at the moment."</p> <p>Croix-des-Bouquets is controlled by the 400 Mawozo gang, which kidnapped 17 members of a U.S.-based missionary group in the same area last October. The gang demanded \$1 million in ransom and held most of them until December.</p> <p>A diplomat from the Dominican Republic was kidnapped in the same neighborhood earlier this month and later freed.</p> <p>Last week, Haiti's National Police announced that one of the top leaders of the 400 Mawozo gang, Germaine Joly, was extradited to the U.S. He faces charges involving kidnapping, smuggling and import of weapons of war.</p> <p>The violence and insecurity has prompted Haitians to organize protests to demand safer neighborhoods.</p> <p>Gang violence has forced dozens of schools and businesses to close in recent weeks and displaced thousands of families, with many of them seeking temporary shelter in schools and shelters as aid groups note an urgent need for food and items including blankets and mattresses.</p> <p>The United Nations announced Friday that at least 75 people had been killed in the most recent gang clashes, including women and children, and more than 65 injured. It also noted gang rapes of children as young as 10, adding that the violence has greatly limited travel from the capital to Haiti's northern and southern regions.</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>05/09 Another Ecuador prison clash; 44 dead</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ecuador-prison-clash-leaves-43-inmates-dead-84598447">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ecuador-prison-clash-leaves-43-inmates-dead-84598447</a>

GIST	<p>QUITO, Ecuador -- A clash between rival Ecuadorian gangs killed 44 inmates, officials said Monday, little more than a month after another prison riot resulted in 20 deaths.</p> <p>Interior Minister Patricio Carrillo said at a news conference that one group of inmates left their cells to attack another inside the Bellavista lockup in Santo Domingo, some 70 kilometers (45 miles) west of Quito, the capital.</p> <p>“It's evident that those who lost their lives were executed by knives; most of the bodies had those characteristics,” he said, and offered relatives help in transporting the bodies to their hometowns.</p> <p>The minister said firearms, explosives and other weapons were found after police assault teams helped retake control of the prison.</p> <p>Authorities said 220 prisoners escaped during the violence, of which 112 had been recaptured.</p> <p>The human rights group Amnesty International reported in March that at least 316 prisoners died in clashes in Ecuadorian prisons during 2020 — including 119 who died during one riot in September of that year.</p> <p>A month after that report was published, a clash between prison gangs armed with guns and knives left 20 people dead in Turi, about 310 kilometers (190 miles) south of the capital.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Mexico: 2 journalists killed, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> of year</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/journalists-killed-mexico-10th-11th-year-84602547">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/journalists-killed-mexico-10th-11th-year-84602547</a>
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Just as Mexican journalists prepared to protest the killing of a journalist last week, word came Monday that two more were shot to death in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, raising to 11 the number of such killings in the country this year.</p> <p>The Veracruz State Prosecutor's Office said via Twitter that it was investigating the killings of Yessenia Mollinedo Falconi and Sheila Johana García Olivera, the director and a reporter, respectively, of the online news site El Veraz in Cosoleacaque.</p> <p>Veracruz State Prosecutor Verónica Hernández Giadán said the investigation would be exhaustive, including considering their journalism work as a possible motive in their killing.</p> <p>The State Commission for Attention To and Protection of Journalists said the two women were attacked outside a convenience store.</p> <p>“We condemn this attack on Veracruz’s journalism profession, give it prompt monitoring and have opened an investigation,” the commission said.</p> <p>Their killings came on the heels of the ninth slaying of journalist this year, in the northern state of Sinaloa. Prosecutors there said Thursday that the body of Luis Enrique Ramírez Ramos was found on a dirt road near a junkyard in the state capital, Culiacan.</p> <p>Prosecutors said that his body was wrapped in black plastic and that he died from multiple blows to the head.</p> <p>Ramírez Ramos’ news website, “Fuentes Fidedignas,” or “Reliable Sources,” said that he had been abducted near his house hours earlier.</p> <p>The dizzying pace of killings has made Mexico the deadliest country for journalists to work outside of war zones this year.</p>

On Monday evening, Griselda Triana, wife of Javier Valdez, a journalist slain in 2017, spoke to some 200 journalists gathered at Mexico City's Angel of Independence monument. The demonstration had originally been scheduled to protest the killing of Ramírez Ramos and those who preceded him.

Valdez, one of Mexico's best-known journalists killed in recent years, was an award-winning reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime in the northern state of Sinaloa.

"In all this time I haven't stopped thinking about how easy it is for them to kill a journalist in Mexico," Triana said. "I feel hurt each time they take the life of so many colleagues."

"There's so much anger, indignation, powerlessness knowing that we come here to protest the murder of Luis Enrique Ramírez, (that happened) a few days ago in Culiacan, Sinaloa, and the news of the killing of two women journalists in Veracruz reaches us here," Triana said. "It's a whirlpool. The crimes against freedom of expression keep occurring every day. We shouldn't tolerate it. We have the authority to ask the authorities to put a stop to this slaughter of journalists."

The victims, like those killed Monday, are most often from small, hyperlocal news outlets. El Veraz operated a Facebook page and appeared to almost exclusively post notices about events or public information from the municipality's government. El Veraz's motto was "Journalism with Humanity."

The phone number listed for El Veraz rang to what appeared to be Mollinedo Falconi's cell phone, according to its message.

Cosoleacaque is just off a major east-west route in southeastern Veracruz. Organized crime is present in the area and involved especially in migrant smuggling, but there was no immediate indication of who could have been responsible.

Veracruz Gov. Cuitláhuac García said a search was underway for those responsible.

"We will find the perpetrators of this crime, there will be justice and there will not be impunity like we have said and done in other cases," García said via Twitter.

Journalists had already scheduled a demonstration for Monday in Mexico City to protest killings of their colleagues, most recently that of Ramírez Ramos in Sinaloa.

Mexico's state and federal governments have been criticized for neither preventing the killings nor investigating them sufficiently.

While organized crime is often involved in journalist killings, small town officials or politicians with political or criminal motivations are often suspects as well. Journalists running small news outlets in Mexico's interior are easy targets.

Mexico has a protection program for journalists and human rights defenders, but it was not immediately known whether either Mollinedo Falconi or García Olivera were enrolled.

Participants receive support, such as electronic devices or "panic buttons" to alert the authorities to any threat; surveillance systems in their homes; even bodyguards in some cases. Often authorities recommend that threatened journalists move to another state or the capital to lessen the threat, but that means separating them from their work, livelihood and families.

While President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has promised a "zero impunity" program to investigate such slayings, journalists' murders, like most homicides in Mexico, are never resolved by authorities. López Obrador has also kept up his regular verbal attacks on journalists critical of his administration.

In February, the Inter American Press Association called on the president to "immediately suspend the aggressions and insults, because such attacks from the top of power encourage violence against the press."

In March, the European Union approved a resolution that “calls on the authorities, and in particular the highest ones, to refrain from issuing any communication which could stigmatize human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, exacerbate the atmosphere against them or distort their lines of investigation.”

Late Monday, presidential spokesman Jesús Ramírez said via Twitter that the federal and state governments would work together to investigate the killings. “The commitment is that there is not impunity.”

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Colombia cartel ‘armed stoppage’ of towns</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/colombia-cartel-shuts-towns-leaders-extradition-84608155">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/colombia-cartel-shuts-towns-leaders-extradition-84608155</a>
GIST	<p>BOGOTA, Colombia -- The Gulf Clan drug cartel shut down dozens of towns in northern Colombia for four days in reaction to its leader being extradited to the U.S. for trial. It warned that anyone who disobeyed the stay-at-home order risked being shot or having their vehicle burned.</p> <p>Businesses closed, schools stayed shut, intercity bus service was suspended and a professional soccer match couldn’t be played after one of the teams refused to travel to the game.</p> <p>The Gulf Clan’s “armed stoppage” decree was issued Thursday in pamphlets and What’sApp messages following the extradition of Dairo Antonio Usuga — also known as Otoniel — to the United States, where he faces drug trafficking charges.</p> <p>The action appeared to be winding down Monday, according to reports from human rights groups and the Roman Catholic Church, after underlining that the cartel is still a major security threat despite Otoniel’s highly publicized arrest last year.</p> <p>Analysts said the cartel’s ability to shut down multiple towns highlighted shortcomings in the government’s long fight against drug trafficking groups.</p> <p>“The security strategy of focusing on high profile targets does not guarantee security for civilians,” said Elizabeth Dickinson, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group.</p> <p>Camilo Gonzalez, the president of Colombian think tank Indepaz, said: “Drug trafficking will not end with the capture of Otoniel. When they captured Pablo Escobar they said drug trafficking would be over, and today there is more of it than back then.”</p> <p>According to Colombia’s Ministry of Defense, three civilians and three police officers were killed during the four days of the shutdown and more than 180 cars were burned for apparently violating the cartel’s order, mostly on rural highways.</p> <p>Even worse numbers were reported by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, a tribunal created following the 2016 peace deal between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebel group.</p> <p>The tribunal said 24 civilians were slain in areas covered by the Gulf Clan’s stoppage, which it said forced people to stay home in 138 municipalities in the northern provinces of Choco, Sucre, Bolivar, Antioquia and Cordoba.</p> <p>In Monteria, a provincial capital of almost 500,000 residents, commerce shut down for four days and the local gas company stopped delivering cylinders to homes. A soccer match between local team Jaguares and a club from Medellin was suspended Sunday because the visitors refused to travel to Monteria in fear their bus would be attacked by cartel enforcers.</p>



The Gulf Clan, which also calls itself the Gaitanista Self Defense Forces of Colombia, was founded in the first decade of this century by leaders of paramilitary groups that refused to join a demobilization agreement in which other groups took part.

Otoniel, the Gulf Clan's most recent leader, had long been a fixture on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's most-wanted list.

He was first indicted in 2009 in Manhattan federal court on narcotics charges and for allegedly assisting a far right paramilitary group designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. government. Later indictments in Brooklyn and Miami federal courts accused him of smuggling at least 73 metric tons of cocaine into the United States between 2003 and 2014.

Colombian authorities have sought to play down the cartel's stoppage, saying they deployed 52,000 soldiers to ensure the security of civilians in the affected areas.

President Ivan Duque said Saturday that actions taken by the cartel's members were "isolated incidents" aimed at intimidating locals insisting that the organization is now weaker and its leadership has been fragmented.

Police offered rewards of more than \$1 million for the capture of three men who have been identified as the clan's new leaders. But critics of the government said the clan's days are far from over.

"The government can eliminate important leaders," said Gonzalez, the Indepaz think tank president. "But this is a mafia network that also includes politicians and money launderers. And it is also involved in human trafficking, illegal gold mining and other businesses."

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HEADLINE	<b>05/09 Lake Mead: another body emerges</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/bodies-found-lake-mead-renew-interest-vegas-mob-84610288">https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/bodies-found-lake-mead-renew-interest-vegas-mob-84610288</a>
GIST	<p>LAS VEGAS -- Las Vegas is being flooded with lore about organized crime after a second set of human remains emerged within a week from the depths of a drought-stricken Colorado River reservoir just a 30-minute drive from the notoriously mob-founded Strip.</p> <p>"There's no telling what we'll find in Lake Mead," former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said Monday. "It's not a bad place to dump a body."</p> <p>Goodman, as a lawyer, represented mob figures including the ill-fated Anthony "Tony the Ant" Spilotro before serving three terms as a martini-toting mayor making public appearances with a showgirl on each arm.</p> <p>He declined to name names about who might turn up in the vast reservoir formed by Hoover Dam between Nevada and Arizona.</p> <p>"I'm relatively sure it was not Jimmy Hoffa," he laughed. But he added that a lot of his former clients seemed interested in "climate control" — mob speak for keeping the lake level up and bodies down in their watery graves.</p> <p>Instead, the world now has climate change, and the surface of Lake Mead has dropped more than 170 feet (52 meters) since 1983.</p> <p>The lake that slakes the thirst of 40 million people in cities, farms and tribes across seven Southwestern states is down to about 30% of capacity.</p> <p>"If the lake goes down much farther, it's very possible we're going to have some very interesting things surface," observed Michael Green, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas history professor whose father dealt blackjack for decades at casinos including the Stardust and the Showboat.</p>

“I wouldn’t bet the mortgage that we’re going to solve who killed Bugsy Siegel,” Green said, referring to the infamous gangster who opened the Flamingo in 1946 on what would become the Strip. Siegel was shot dead in 1947 in Beverly Hills, California. His assassin has never been identified.

“But I would be willing to bet there are going to be a few more bodies,” Green said.

First, the dropping lake level exposed Las Vegas’ uppermost drinking water intake on April 25, forcing the regional water authority to switch to a deep-lake intake it completed in 2020 to continue to supply casinos, suburbs and 2.4 million residents and 40 million tourists per year.

The following weekend, boaters spotted the decomposed body of a man in a rusted barrel stuck in the mud of newly exposed shoreline.

The corpse has not been identified, but Las Vegas police say he had been shot, probably between the mid-1970s and the early 1980s, according to the shoes found with him. The death is being investigated as a homicide.

A few days later, a second barrel was found by a KLAS-TV news crew, not far from the first. It was empty.

On Saturday, two sisters from suburban Henderson who were paddle boarding on the lake near a former marina resort noticed bones on a newly surfaced sand bar more than 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) from the barrels.

Lindsey Melvin, who took photos of their find, said they thought at first it was the skeleton of a bighorn sheep native to the region. A closer look revealed a human jaw with teeth. They called park rangers, and the National Park Service confirmed in a statement that the bones were human.

There was no immediate evidence of foul play, Las Vegas police said Monday, and they are not investigating. A homicide probe would be opened if the Clark County coroner determines the death was suspicious, the department said in a statement.

More bodies will be discovered, predicted Geoff Schumacher, vice president of The Mob Museum, a renovated historic downtown Las Vegas post office and federal building that opened in 2012 as The National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement.

“I think a lot of these individuals will likely have been drowning victims,” Schumacher said, referring to boaters and swimmers who’ve never been found. “But a barrel has a signature of a mob hit. Stuffing a body in a barrel. Sometimes they would dump it in the water.”

He and Green both cited the death of John “Handsome Johnny” Roselli, a mid-1950s Las Vegas mobster who disappeared in 1976 a few days before his body was found in a 55-gallon (208-liter) steel drum floating off the coast of Miami.

David Kohlmeier, a former police officer who now co-hosts a Las Vegas podcast and fledgling TV show called “The Problem Solver Show,” said Monday that after offering a \$5,000 reward last week for qualified divers to find barrels in the lake, he heard from people in San Diego and Florida willing to try.

But National Park Service officials said that’s not allowed, and that there are hundreds of barrels in the depths — some dating to the construction of Hoover Dam in the 1930s.

Kohlmeier said he also heard from families of missing people and about cases like a man suspected of killing his mother and brother in 1987, a hotel employee who disappeared in 1992, and a father from Utah who vanished in the 1980s.

"You'll probably find remains all throughout Lake Mead," Kohlmeier said, including Native Americans who were the area's earliest inhabitants.

Green said the discoveries have people talking not only about mob hits, but about bringing relief and closure to grieving families. Not to mention the ever-growing white mineral markings on steep lake walls showing where water used to be.

"People will talk about this for the right reasons and the wrong reasons," the professor said. "They're going to think we're going to solve every mob murder. In fact, we may see some.

"But it's also worth remembering that the mob did not like murders to take place in the Las Vegas area, because they did not like bad publicity going out under the Las Vegas dateline."

The right reason, Green said, is the visible evidence that the West has a serious water problem. "The 'bathtub ring' around the lake is big and getting bigger," he said.

Whatever story emerges about the body in the barrel, Goodman predicted it will add to the lore of a city that, with lake water, sprouted from a creosote bush-covered desert to become a marquee gambling mecca.

"When I was the mayor, every time I went to a ground breaking, I'd begin to shake for fear that somebody I may have run into over the years will be uncovered," he said.

"We have a very interesting background," Goodman added. "It certainly adds to the mystique of Las Vegas."

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HEADLINE	05/09 Fugitive inmate caught, ex-jail officer dead
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/escaped-murder-suspect-extremely-violent-medication-sheriff/story?id=84590527">https://abcnews.go.com/US/escaped-murder-suspect-extremely-violent-medication-sheriff/story?id=84590527</a>
GIST	<p>Florence, Alabama, jail employee Vicky White has died Monday after she was apprehended along with murder suspect Casey White in Evansville, Indiana, which ended a 10-day manhunt, according to the Vanderburgh County Coroners Office.</p> <p>After Inmate Casey White, 38, and Lauderdale County Assistant Director of Corrections Vicky White, 56, were spotted at a hotel, Casey White and Vicky White led police on a car chase in that ended with a wreck, Indiana authorities said. Vicky White, who was driving the Cadillac, was hospitalized with "very serious" injuries from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the Vanderburgh County, Indiana, sheriff's office.</p> <p>"Can't clarify how long they have been in Evansville ... lucky we stumbled upon them today," Vanderburgh County Sheriff Dave Wedding said Monday.</p> <p>He said the pursuit only lasted a few minutes.</p> <p>"We got a dangerous man off the street today," Lauderdale County Sheriff Rick Singleton said Monday during a press conference.</p> <p>Casey White and Vicky White, who are not related, fled the Lauderdale County Jail on April 29.</p> <p>Authorities said they believe Vicky White willingly participated in the escape, which took place on her last day before retirement.</p> <p>The duo fled Alabama in a Ford Edge and ditched the car in Williamson County, Tennessee -- about a two-hour drive north of Florence -- just hours after the jail break.</p>

	<p>On Monday, U.S. Marshals said investigators were in Evansville, Indiana, following up on a tip after a 2006 Ford F-150 believed to have been used by Casey White and Vicky White was found abandoned at a car wash on May 3. Police were alerted to the vehicle on Sunday.</p> <p>At the time of his escape, Casey White was facing two counts of capital murder for allegedly stabbing a woman to death in 2015, according to the U.S. Marshals Service.</p> <p>Vicky White has been charged with forgery and identity theft for allegedly using an alias to buy the Ford Edge used to facilitate the escape, according to the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office. A warrant was also issued for Vicky White charging her with permitting or facilitating escape.</p> <p>No one was injured as a result of the escape, Singleton said.</p> <p>Vicky White died Monday evening at Deaconess Hospital. An autopsy is scheduled for Tuesday.</p> <p>Casey White will be brought back to Lauderdale County to be arraigned, Singleton said.</p> <p>"He's not getting out of this jail again," Singleton said. "I assure you that."</p>
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